GIANT-SIZE X-MEN

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68 BIG PAGES

GIANT-SIZE X-MEN

SENSES-SHATTERING 1ST ISSUE!

NEW! DEADLY GENESIS!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE UNCANNY X-MEN!**™

LEN WEIN WRITER EDITOR & DAVE COCKRUM ILLUSTRATOR / GLYNIS WEIN colorist / JOHN COSTANZA letterer
- CO-CREATORS -

WINZELDORF, GERMANY: NESTLED DEEP IN THE BAVARIAN ALPS, THIS TINY VILLAGE HAS HARDLY CHANGED OVER THE CENTURIES.
IN WINZELDORF, LIFE IS GENTLE, PEACEFUL --

--FOR NOTHING EVER HAPPENS HERE TO DISTURB THE DOMESTIC...
...TRANQUILITY?
THIS WAY, MEN! THE MONSTER WENT THIS WAY!

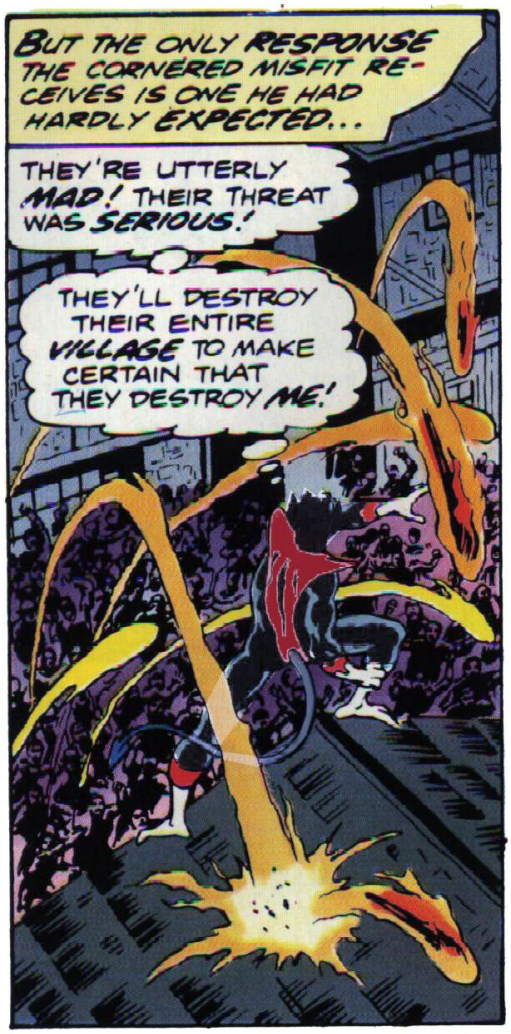
MONSTER, IS IT?
THE FOOLS! IT IS THEY WHO ARE THE MONSTERS--
--THEY WITH THEIR MINDLESS PREJUDICES!

PERHAPS THINGS WOULD BE SIMPLER--SAFER--IF I HAD STAYED WITH DER JAHRMARKT--
--BUT THE LIFE OF A CARNIVAL FREAK IS NOT FOR ME--NOT FOR KURT WAGNER!
LET THEM COME IF THEY MUST--LET THEM TRY TO KILL ME--!

AT LEAST IF I DIE, IT WILL BE AS A MAN!
IRONICALLY, THE ASTONISHING LEAP ALONE LENDS DOUBT TO KURT WAGNER'S HUMANITY...

WE'VE GOT HIM NOW!
COME DOWN, MONSTER! COME DOWN--OR WE'LL BURN YOU DOWN!

...AND HIS HIDEOUS HOWLING, LIKE THAT OF A BAYING BEAST, DENIES IT COMPLETELY!
GO AWAY, YOU FOOLS! I HAVE DONE NOTHING!


BUT THE ONLY RESPONSE THE CORNERED MISFIT RECEIVES IS ONE HE HAD HARDLY EXPECTED...
THEY'RE UTTERLY MAD! THEIR THREAT WAS SERIOUS!
THEY'LL DESTROY THEIR ENTIRE VILLAGE TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THEY DESTROY ME!

AND FOR WHAT REASON? I CAME AMONG THEM ONLY TO LEARN--
--YET ALL I'VE LEARNED THUS FAR ARE THE WAYS OF BLIND, UNREASONING VIOLENCE!

WELL, IF THAT IS ALL THAT THOSE WHO DWELL IN THE NORMAL WORLD HAVE TO TEACH ME--

--I WILL SHOW THEM THAT I LEARN MY LESSONS WELL!
THWAMM!

VERY WELL INDEED!
CHOK!

HOWLING WILDLY, KURT WAGNER PLUNGES THRU THE THICK OF THE MOB--
--UNTIL THE SHEER WEIGHT OF ITS NUMBERS CARRIES HIM DOWN!
WE HAVE HIM! WE HAVE HIM!
QUICKLY-- BRING THE STAKE!

NOW, MONSTER-- WE WILL BE RID OF YOU!
NOW WE WILL...
STOP!

AND, REMARKABLY... THEY DO!
VAS--?
TH-THEY'RE NOT MOVING!
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THEM?

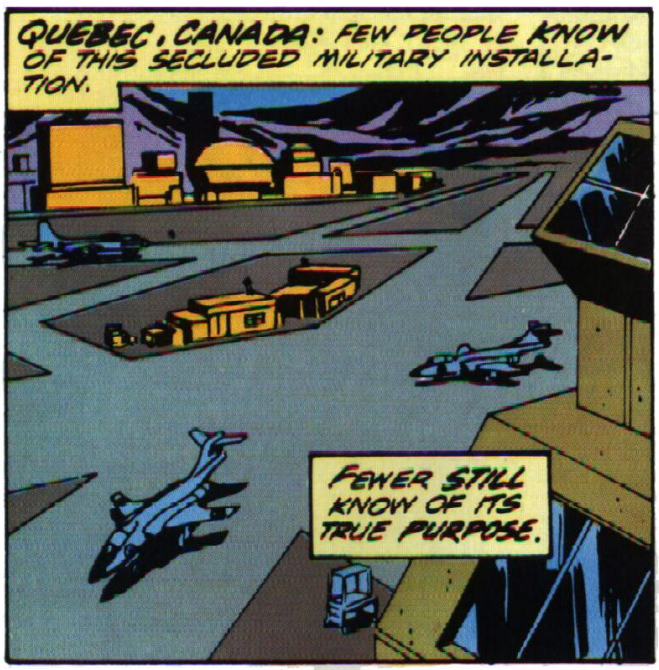
I HAPPENED TO THEM, KURT WAGNER.
YOU DID... THIS TO THEM? BUT HOW--? WHY?
MY NAME IS CHARLES XAVIER!

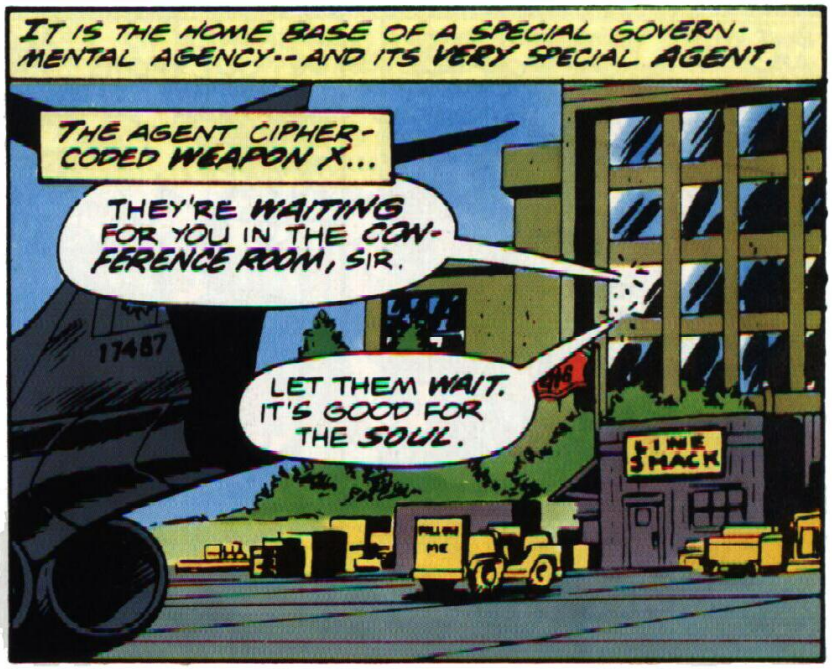
I HEARD YOU SAY YOU'D COME HERE TO LEARN, MY FRIEND. I AM A TEACHER. I RUN A SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS SUCH AS YOU.
A SCHOOL FOR MUTANTS!

MUTANT? YES... I HAVE HEARD THE WORD.
YOU ARE A MUTANT, KURT.
I CAN HELP YOU FIND YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL.

CAN YOU HELP ME TO BE NORMAL?
AFTER TONIGHT'S MISFORTUNE, KURT-- WOULD YOU TRULY WANT TO BE?

PERHAPS NOT. I WANT ONLY TO BE A WHOLE KURT WAGNER!
IF YOU CAN MAKE ME THAT, TEACHER... I WILL GO WITH YOU.

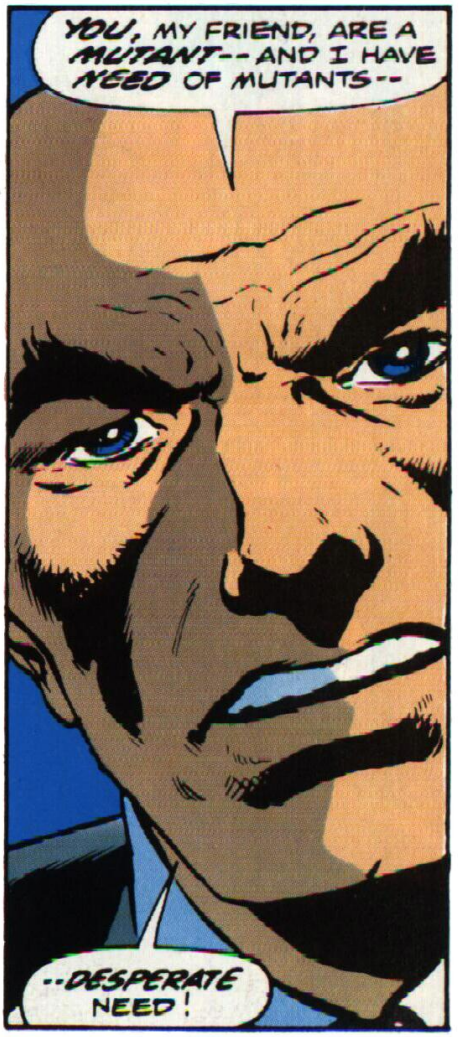

QUEBEC, CANADA: FEW PEOPLE KNOW OF THIS SECLUDED MILITARY INSTALLATION.
FEWER STILL KNOW OF ITS TRUE PURPOSE.


IT IS THE HOME BASE OF A SPECIAL GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY--AND ITS VERY SPECIAL AGENT.
THE AGENT CIPHER-CODED WEAPON X...
THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, SIR.
LET THEM WAIT. IT'S GOOD FOR THE SOUL.
17487
LINE SMACK

...BUT BETTER KNOWN TO US AS--THE WOLVERINE!
ALL RIGHT, GENTS--I'M HERE!
NOW WHO'S THIS BIGWIG YOU WANT ME TO MEET?

I AM THE BIGWIG, WOLVERINE. PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER AT YOUR SERVICE.
AM I SUPPOSED TO BE IMPRESSED?
APPARENTLY THE TOP BRASS IS IMPRESSED, WOLVERINE. ALL I KNOW IS THAT THE PROFESSOR IS HERE TO MAKE YOU SOME SORT OF OFFER!

AN OFFER, EH? OKAY, PROF--YOU'VE PIQUED MY CURIOSITY. WHAT'S THE DEAL?
I'LL COME STRAIGHT TO THE POINT THEN.
I KNOW OF YOUR RECENT BATTLE WITH THE HULK*--AND, MOREOVER, I KNOW OF YOUR POWERS.
*IN HULK #181. --LEN.


YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE A MUTANT--AND I HAVE NEED OF MUTANTS--
--DESPERATE NEED!

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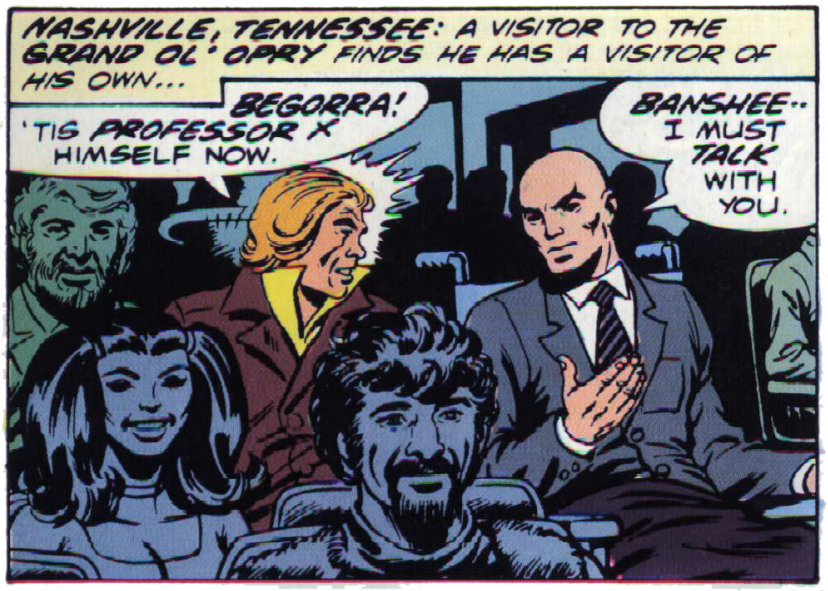

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE: A VISITOR TO THE GRAND OL' OPRY FINDS HE HAS A VISITOR OF HIS OWN...
BEGORRA! 'TIS PROFESSOR X HIMSELF NOW.
BANSHEE.. I MUST TALK WITH YOU.

SHORTLY, IN THE BANSHEE'S SHABBY QUARTERS...
SO THAT'S THE STORY, IS IT? THEN SURE AN' I'LL HELP YE, PROFESSOR.
'TWILL BE NICE TO TREAD THE STRAIGHT AN' NARROW... FER A CHANGE.

KENYA, EAST AFRICA: ATOP A LONELY KNOLL, THERE STANDS A GREAT STONE PORTAL.
MEN COME TO IT IN HUMILITY, THEIR VOICES RAISED IN PRAISE AND SONG-- AND PRAYERFUL SUPPLICATION.

"ORORO, GREAT GODDESS OF THE STORM," THE VOICES CRY, "COME UNTO US AND EASE OUR BURDEN!"
AND WITH THE HOLLOW PEAL OF THUNDER AND THE MOAN OF LONELY WINDS--

--THE STORM GODDESS COMES!
I AM HERE, MY CHILDREN. WHAT DO YOU WISH OF ME?

THERE IS DROUGHT UPON THE LAND, BLESSED ONE. OUR CROPS WITHER, OUR GRASSES PARCH.
TEN GOATS AND CHICKENS SHALL WE SLAY IN YOUR HONOR--IF YOU WILL ONLY BRING US RAIN!

HER EYES ARE CRYSTAL BLUE, AND OLDER THAN TIME. THEY SPARKLE AS SHE ANSWERS...
SAVE YOUR BEASTS, MY CHILDREN. YOU NEED THEM MORE THAN I.
I WILL DO AS YOU PLEAD.

HER LIQUID EYES GROW DARK THEN-- AND THE SKY GROWS DARK AS WELL:

ONCE MORE, THE HOWLING WINDS COME UP--
--AND SWEEP THE STORM GODDESS AWAY!

SHE SOARS ALOFT LIKE AN EBON BIRD, LIGHTNING LANCING FROM HER FINGERTIPS, THE GLOW OF LIFE SHINING FULL UPON HER FACE.
SHE IS HAPPY HERE--ONLY TRULY HAPPY HERE AMONG THE ELEMENTS--

--AND THE RAGING SKY, TOUCHED BY HER HAPPINESS...
...WEEPS.

WHEN THE STORM GODDESS RETURNS TO EARTH AT LAST, HER JOY IS SHARED BY ALL.
A MOST IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY, ORORO... TRULY BEAUTIFUL.

WH-WHO ARE YOU? WHAT BUSINESS HAVE YOU IN ORORO'S LAND?
I AM CALLED XAVIER--
--AND I HAVE COME TO MAKE YOU AN OFFER I PRAY YOU WILL NOT REFUSE.
AN...OFFER? WHAT HAVE YOU TO OFFER A GODDESS?

YOU HAVE A LAND, ORORO-- AND PEOPLE WHO ADORE YOU.
I OFFER YOU A WORLD-- AND PEOPLE WHO MAY FEAR YOU, HATE YOU-- BUT PEOPLE WHO NEED YOU NONETHELESS.
THE WORLD I OFFER IS NOT BEAUTIFUL-- BUT IT IS REAL--
--FAR MORE REAL THAN THE FANTASY YOU'RE LIVING NOW.

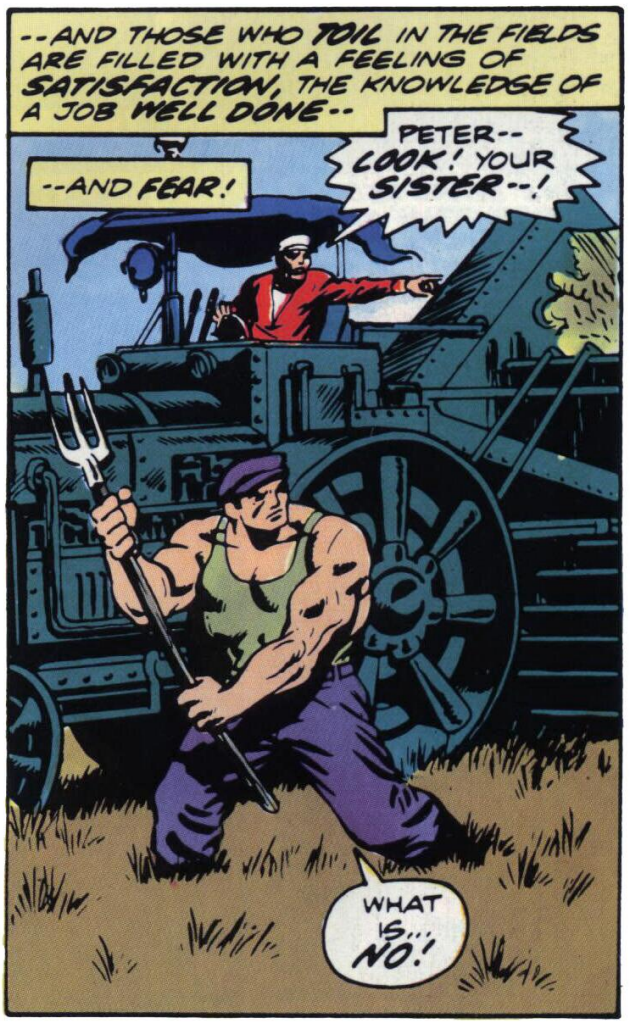
"YOU ARE NO GODDESS, ORORO. YOU ARE A MUTANT-- AND YOU HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES.
"COME WITH ME, CHILD. TASTE THE WORLD OUTSIDE. YOU MAY FIND ITS FLAVOR BITTER-- OR SURPRISINGLY SWEET."

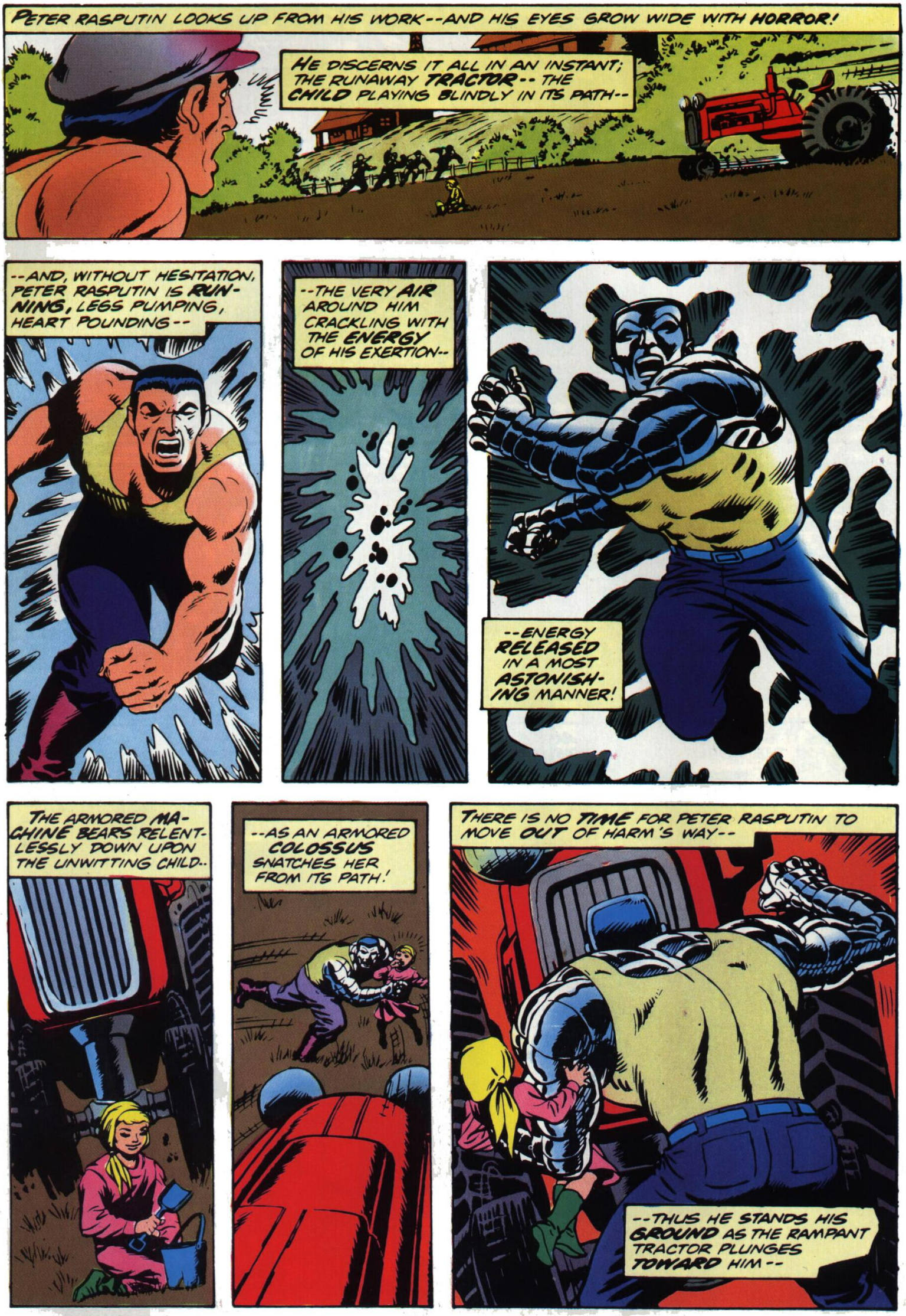
YOU PRESENT A MOST PECULIAR ARGUMENT--YET I SENSE A DEEP SINCERITY IN YOUR WORDS.
ALL RIGHT, I WILL... COME WITH YOU.
PEPHAPS THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO LEAVE THE NEST AT LAST.

OSAKA, JAPAN: TWO OLD ACQUAINTANCES SHARE TEA IN THE SPLENDID GARDEN OF SHIRO YOSHIDA...
I KNOW YOUR FEELINGS TOWARD THE WESTERN WORLD, SHIRO--
--AND I WOULD NOT HAVE COME TO YOU...
...BUT YOU REQUIRE HELP THAT ONLY I MAY GIVE!
SO! I OWE YOU NOTHING, PROFESSOR --BUT PERHAPS I OWE SOMETHING TO MYSELF.

PERHAPS IT IS TIME ONCE MORE FOR THE WORLD TO HEAR FROM-- SUNFIRE!

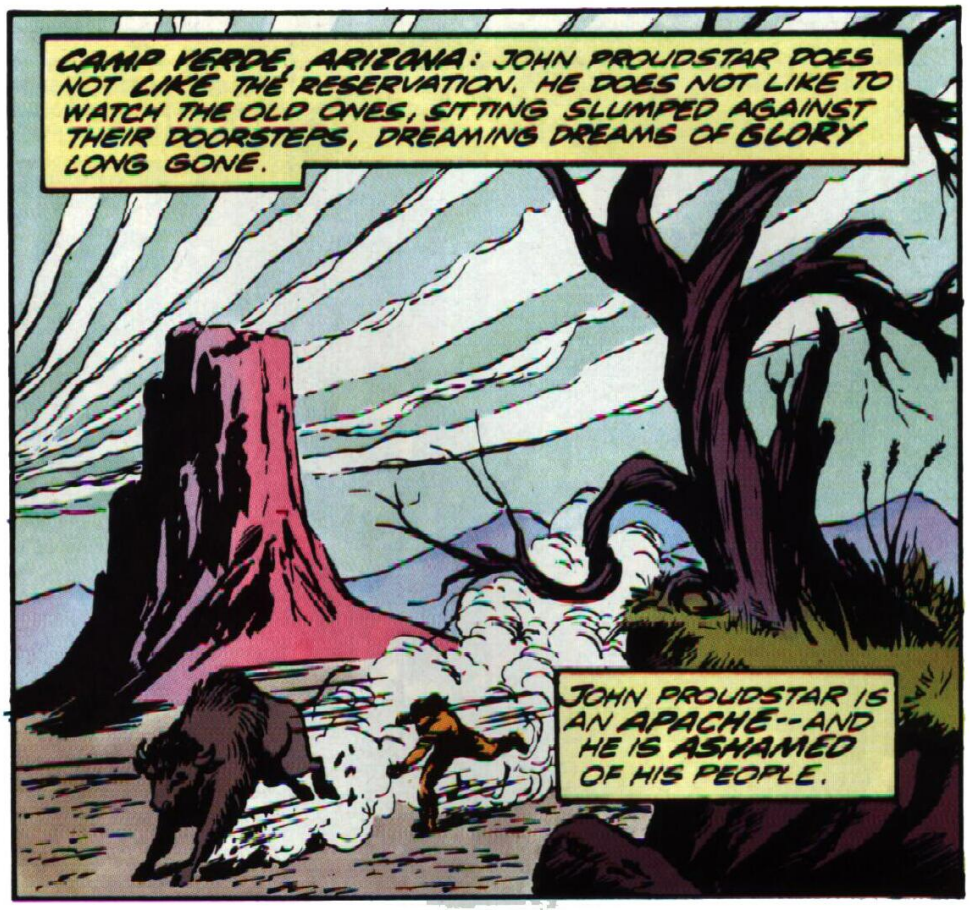
LAKE BAIKAL, SIBERIA: IT HAS BEEN A GOOD YEAR FOR THE UST-ORDYNSKI COLLECTIVE FARM.
THE CROP HAS BEEN LARGER THAN EXPECTED. THE WHEAT FILLS THE FIELDS LIKE AN AMBER SEA--

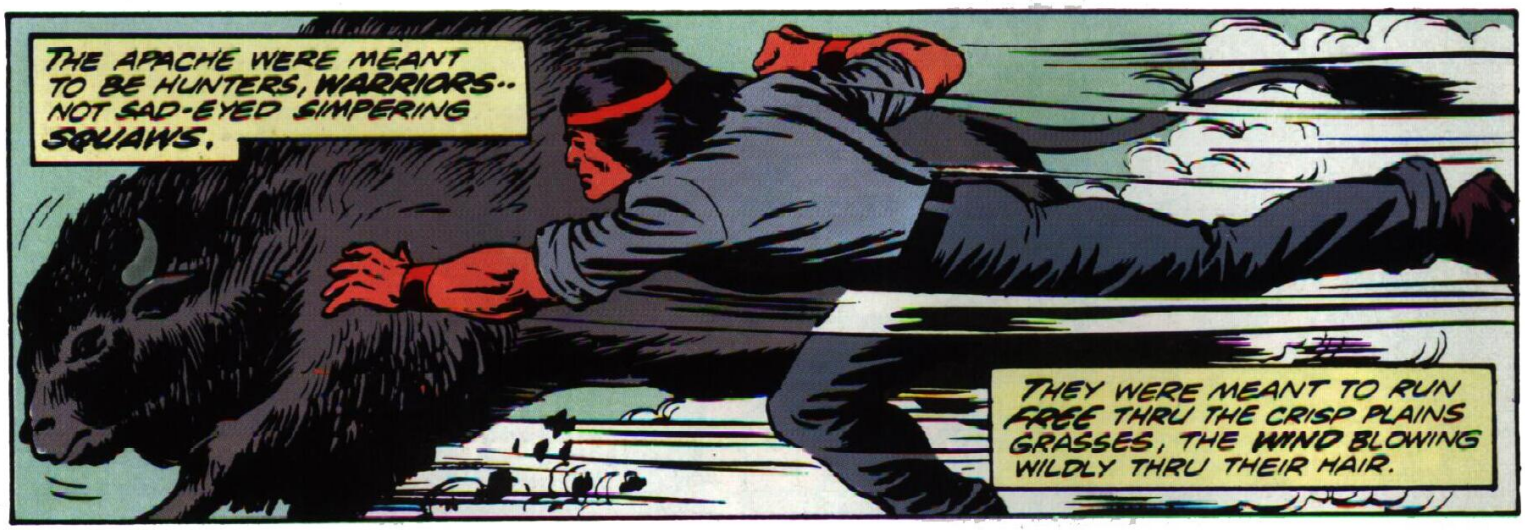

--AND THOSE WHO TOIL IN THE FIELDS ARE FILLED WITH A FEELING OF SATISFACTION, THE KNOWLEDGE OF A JOB WELL DONE--
--AND FEAR!
PETER-- LOOK! YOUR SISTER--!
WHAT IS... NO!

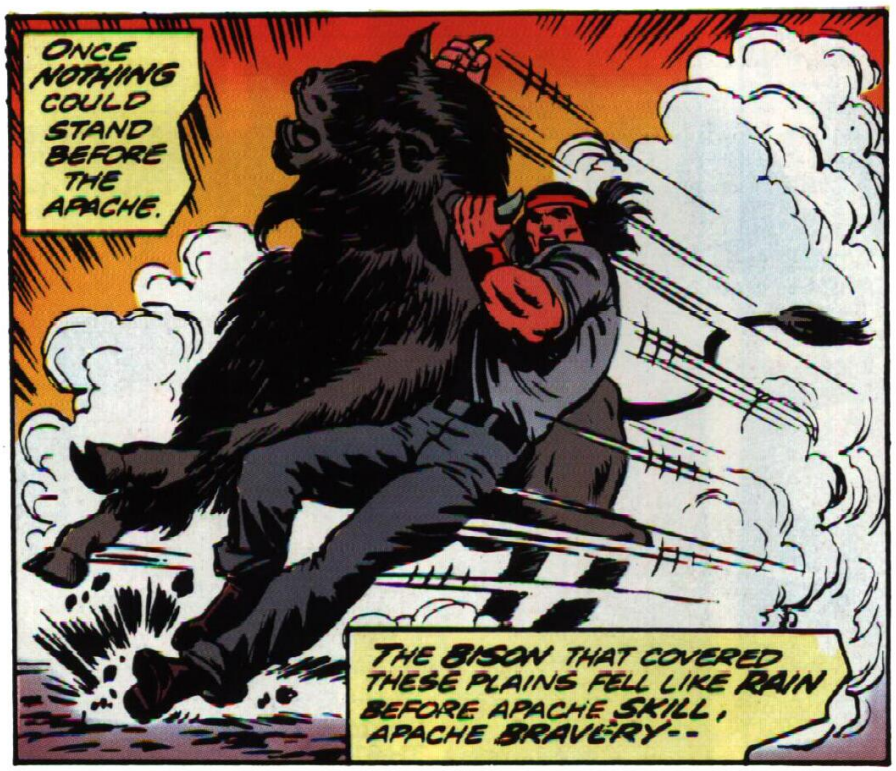

PETER RASPUTIN LOOKS UP FROM HIS WORK--AND HIS EYES GROW WIDE WITH HORROR!
HE DISCERNS IT ALL IN AN INSTANT; THE RUNAWAY TRACTOR-- THE CHILD PLAYING BLINDLY IN ITS PATH--
--AND, WITHOUT HESITATION, PETER RASPUTIN IS RUNNING, LEGS PUMPING, HEART POUNDING--
--THE VERY AIR AROUND HIM CRACKLING WITH THE ENERGY OF HIS EXERTION--
--ENERGY RELEASED IN A MOST ASTONISHING MANNER!
THE ARMORED MACHINE BEARS RELENTLESSLY DOWN UPON THE UNWITTING CHILD--
--AS AN ARMORED COLOSSUS SNATCHES HER FROM ITS PATH!
THERE IS NO TIME FOR PETER RASPUTIN TO MOVE OUT OF HARM'S WAY--
--THUS HE STANDS HIS GROUND AS THE RAMPANT TRACTOR PLUNGES TOWARD HIM--

--AND HE WONDERS HOW HIS POOR NEIGHBORS WILL EVER AFFORD TO BUY ANOTHER!
KWA-THOOM!
THAT, THOUGH, IS A WORRY FOR ANOTHER DAY.
THIS DAY WILL BE FILLED WITH PROBLEMS ENOUGH.
PETER RASPUTIN, I WISH TO TALK TO YOU.
THAT VOICE IN MY HEAD--! WHO--?
BY NOW, WE KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION--
--SO MOMENTS LATER...
YOU WANT ME TO GO WITH YOU... TO AMERICA?
BUT IF I POSSESS SUCH POWER AS YOU SAY-- DOES IT NOT BELONG TO THE STATE?
POWER SUCH AS YOURS BELONGS TO THE WORLD, PETER-- TO BE USED FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.
AND BELIEVE ME-- YOUR POWERS ARE NEEDED!
"THEN COME. WE WILL TALK OF THIS WITH MY PARENTS."
...AND SO THIS PROFESSOR WANTS TO TAKE ME WITH HIM-- TO TEACH ME HOW TO DEAL WITH MY... MY MUTANT POWERS.
TH-THERE IS WISDOM IN HIS WORDS, PAPA-- BUT I AM HAPPY HERE.
TELL ME, PAPA-- WHAT SHOULD I DO?
DO AS YOUR HEART TELLS YOU, MY SON. IT WILL NOT BETRAY YOU.
MY HEART TELLS ME TO STAY, PAPA--
--BUT MY CONSCIENCE TELLS ME OTHERWISE.
I MUST GO, PAPA.
THEN IT IS RIGHT THAT YOU DO.

DOSVIDANYA, PETER. OUR LOVE GOES WITH YOU.
DO NOT WORRY, MAMA--I WILL WRITE YOU.
GOOD-BYE, PAPA--I WILL MAKE YOU PROUD.
WE ARE ALREADY PROUD... MY SON.


CAMP VERDE, ARIZONA: JOHN PROUDSTAR DOES NOT LIKE THE RESERVATION. HE DOES NOT LIKE TO WATCH THE OLD ONES, SITTING SLUMPED AGAINST THEIR DOORSTEPS, DREAMING DREAMS OF GLORY LONG GONE.
JOHN PROUDSTAR IS AN APACHE--AND HE IS ASHAMED OF HIS PEOPLE.


THE APACHE WERE MEANT TO BE HUNTERS, WARRIORS--NOT SAD-EYED SIMPERING SQUAWS.
THEY WERE MEANT TO RUN FREE THRU THE CRISP PLAINS GRASSES, THE WIND BLOWING WILDLY THRU THEIR HAIR.


ONCE NOTHING COULD STAND BEFORE THE APACHE.
THE BISON THAT COVERED THESE PLAINS FELL LIKE RAIN BEFORE APACHE SKILL, APACHE BRAVERY--

--BUT NEVER DID ANY BISON FALL LIKE--THIS!
THERE, HORNED ONE--DO YOU SEE?
THERE IS STILL A MAN AMONG THE APACHE!
THOOM!

AND SUCH A MAN HAVE I COME LOOKING FOR, JOHN PROUDSTAR.
HUH??

NOW HOW IN BLAZES DID A CRIPPLE GET WAY OUT HERE? NOT THAT IT MATTERS MUCH.
YOU'VE GOT FIVE SECONDS TO VAMOOSE, WHITE-EYES! I DON'T WANT COMPANY--ESPECIALLY YOURS!
DON'T BE TOO HASTY, MY YOUNG FRIEND.

I'VE COME TO HELP YOU FULFILL YOUR DREAM--TO GIVE PRIDE BACK TO YOUR PEOPLE.
YOU ARE SPECIAL, JOHN PROUDSTAR. YOU ARE A MUTANT.
AND YOU ARE NEEDED.

AND YOU CAN STUFF A CACTUS, CUSTER!
THE WHITE MAN NEEDS ME? THAT'S TOUGH!
I OWE HIM NOTHING BUT THE GRIEF HE'S GIVEN MY PEOPLE!

NOW BEAT IT!
I OFFER YOU A CHANCE TO HELP THE WORLD--AND YOU TURN YOUR BACK ON ME?
THEN PERHAPS WHAT THEY SAY IS TRUE!

PERHAPS THE APACHE ARE ALL FRIGHTENED SELFISH CHILDREN!
HO-KAY... THAT DOES IT!

AIN'T NOBODY THAT CALLS ME A COWARD, MISTER!
I'M AS GOOD AS THE NEXT GUY--HELL, I'M BETTER!
YOU GIVE ME A CHANCE--I'LL PROVE IT!
AND YOU WILL HAVE YOUR CHANCE, JOHN. I PROMISE YOU THAT.

BUT WILL YOU--WILL ANY OF MY NEW X-MEN BE EQUAL TO THE TASK THAT LIES BEFORE YOU?
OR WILL YOU CARRY THE WORLD DOWN INTO RUIN?

CHAPTER II
"...AND WHEN THERE WAS ONE!"
WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK: THE SCHOOL HAD SEEMED A LATTER-DAY TOWER OF BABEL AT FIRST-- BUT A TELEPATHIC CRASH COURSE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE HAD CLOSED THE COMMUNICATION GAP IN MERE MINUTES.
NOW PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER SITS, SOMBERLY STUDYING HIS COLORFULLY-COSTUMED HOUSE-GUESTS--
--AND WHATEVER THOUGHTS HE MIGHT HAVE AT THIS POINT ARE HIS ALONE TO KNOW.
IN ALL MY LIFE, SUCH CLOTHING AS THIS I HAVE NEVER SEEN!
THE COSTUME IS BEAUTIFUL, AND THE FIT--PERFECT! BUT HOW DID YOU...?
THE UNIFORMS ARE CONSTRUCTED FROM UNSTABLE MOLECULES, WHICH ADJUST THEMSELVES WHERE NECESSARY.
I OBTAINED THEM FROM A MAN NAMED REED RICHARDS, AND I'M CERTAIN YOU'LL LEARN MORE OF HIM AND HIS FRIENDS LATER.
BUT RIGHT NOW...

RIGHT NOW YOU WILL TELL US WHY YOU DRAGGED US HERE, PROFESSOR!
I, FOR ONE, AM SWIFTLY LOSING MY PATIENCE!
SUNFIRE, PLEASE--

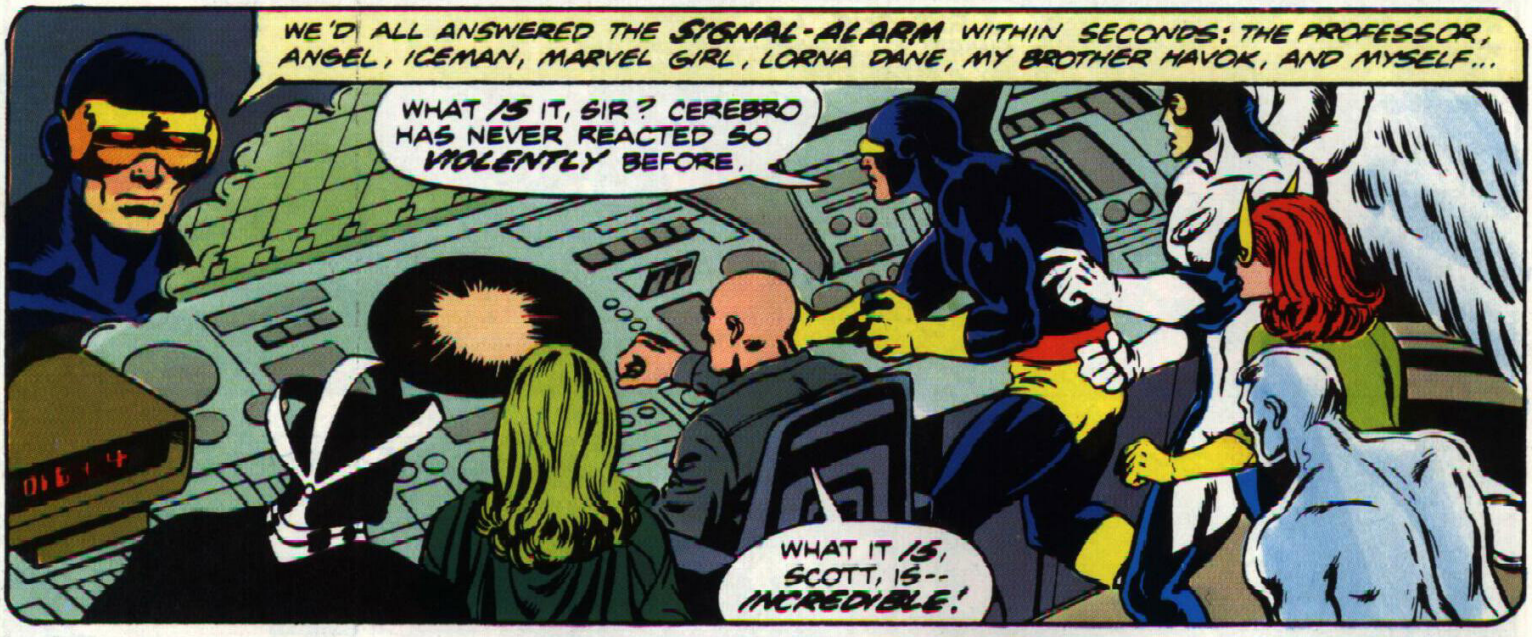
--IT WAS NOT MY INTENTION TO WASTE YOUR TIME.
I'VE MERELY AWAITED THE ARRIVAL OF ONE WHO CAN EXPLAIN THE SITUATION FAR BETTER THAN I.

MY FRIENDS, ALLOW ME TO PRESENT SCOTT SUMMERS--
--THE MAN CALLED CYCLOPS!
HE WILL FILL YOU IN ON THE DETAILS.

THE "DETAILS", PEOPLE, ARE DEPRESSINGLY SIMPLE!
YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED HERE BECAUSE-- THE X-MEN HAVE DISAPPEARED!

YOU SEVEN ARE OUR ONLY HOPE OF... BUT I'M GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF.
COME ON. I MAY AS WELL SHOW YOU WHERE IT ALL BEGAN!

THIS IS CEREBRO, OUR SPECIALLY-DESIGNED MUTANT-DETECTOR!
IT'S THRU THIS MECHANISM THAT WE DISCOVERED ALL OF YOU--
--AND LOST MY CLOSEST FRIENDS!


WE'D ALL ANSWERED THE SIGNAL-ALARM WITHIN SECONDS: THE PROFESSOR, ANGEL, ICEMAN, MARVEL GIRL, LORNA DANE, MY BROTHER HAVOK, AND MYSELF...
WHAT IS IT, SIR? CEREBRO HAS NEVER REACTED SO VIOLENTLY BEFORE.
WHAT IT IS, SCOTT, IS-- INCREDIBLE!

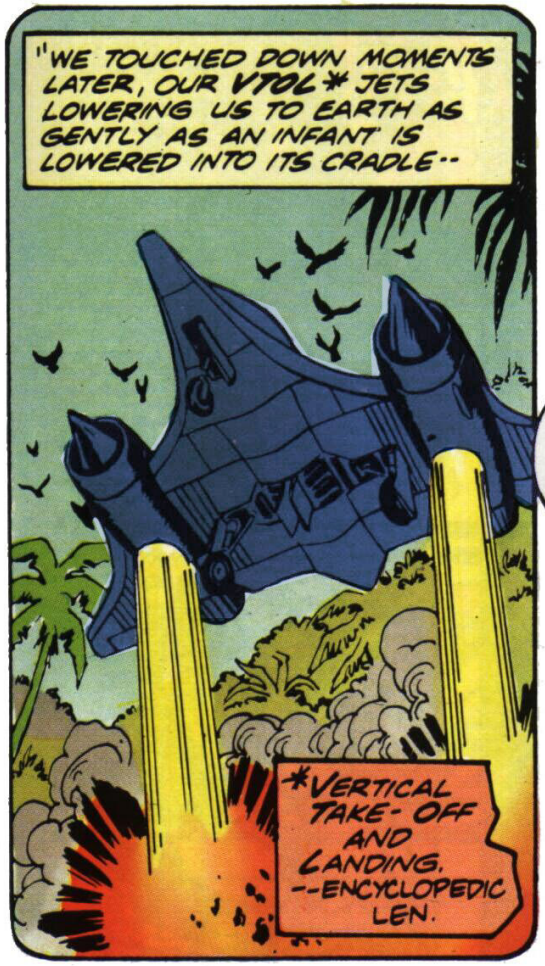
APPARENTLY, CEREBRO HAS DETECTED A NEW MUTANT ON THE ISLAND OF KRAKOA IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC--
--A MUTANT SO POWERFUL AS TO DEFY CLASSIFICATION!
IT SEEMS YOU ALL HAVE WORK TO DO, SCOTT...

FIND THAT MUTANT-- QUICKLY-- BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE FINDS HIM FIRST!
YOU HEARD THE PROFESSOR, X-MEN-- IT'S TRAVELIN' TIME!

"SHORTLY AFTER, OUR SPECIALLY-DESIGNED STRATO-JET ARCED HIGH OVER THE PATCHWORK COUNTRY-SIDE--
"--STREAKING TOWARDS AN UNKNOWN CONFRONTATION--

"--BUT AT THAT MOMENT, OUR MINDS WERE ON OTHER THINGS.
WISH WE COULD'VE CONTACTED THE BEAST! HANK McCOY'S DEXTEROUS DIGITS MIGHT BE--EH--HANDY ON A JOB LIKE THIS.
HANK GRADUATED THE X-MEN, JEAN. IF HE HASN'T GOT TIME FOR US NOW, THAT'S HIS BUSINESS.

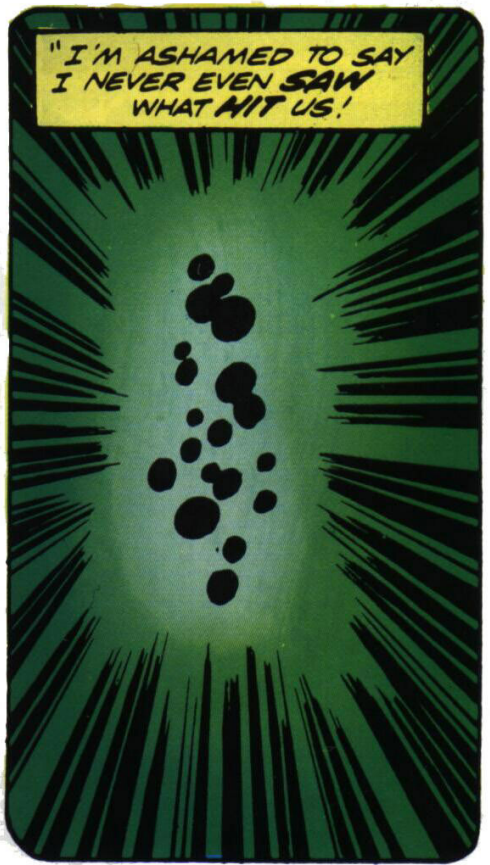
RIGHT NOW WE'VE GOT BUSINESS OF OUR OWN TO WORRY ABOUT.
THAT'S KRAKOA DEAD AHEAD!
YEECH--YOU'D NEED A SUPER-POWER JUST TO SURVIVE ON THAT DESOLATE MUD-BAR.
ENOUGH BANTER! STRAP IN FOR LANDING!


"WE TOUCHED DOWN MOMENTS LATER, OUR VTOL* JETS LOWERING US TO EARTH AS GENTLY AS AN INFANT IS LOWERED INTO ITS CRADLE--
*VERTICAL TAKE-OFF AND LANDING. --ENCYCLOPEDIC LEN.

"--BUT WE WERE NOT INFANTS--AND THIS WAS DEFINITELY NO CHILD'S GAME!
I THINK WE TOOK THE WRONG BUS, GANG. THIS PLACE SURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE CLEVELAND.
ALL THE INSECTS IN THE AIR--THE OVERGROWN JUNGLE--!
ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE THIS IS CLEVELAND.

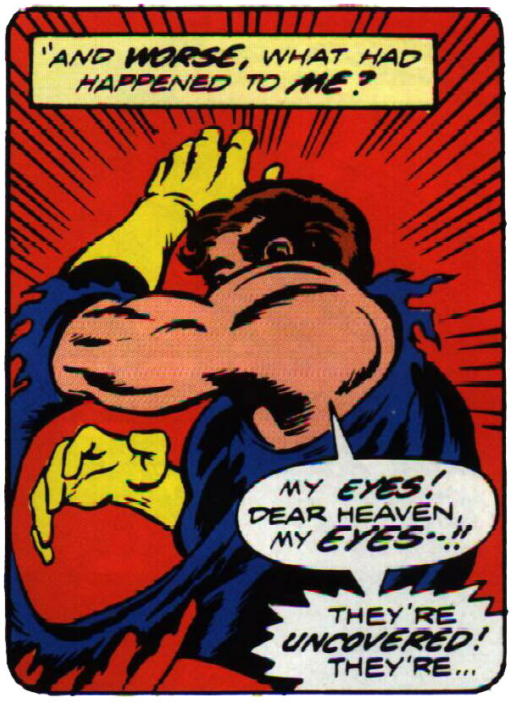
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, ICEMAN--SHELVE THE SNAPPY PATTER!
WE HAVE A DIFFICULT JOB AHEAD OF US, FINDING THAT NEW MUTANT--!
MAYBE AN IMPOSSIBLE ONE, CYKE--WHEN YOU CONSIDER WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR!

POINT TAKEN, ANGEL. LET'S FAN OUT AND SEE IF...
BEHIND US--L-LOOK! IT'S...IT'S...
QUICK, EVERYBODY--SCATTER!
GET MOVING BEFORE WE...


"I'M ASHAMED TO SAY I NEVER EVEN SAW WHAT HIT US!

"MY HEAD WAS A THROBBING MASS OF PAIN AND SCREAMING IMAGES WHEN I STRUGGLED AWAKE LORD KNOWS HOW LONG AFTERWARD.

"I DIDN'T REALIZE WHERE I WAS, NOR DID I REALLY CARE. ALL THAT CONCERNED ME WAS...
MY FRIENDS! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER X-MEN?


"AND WORSE, WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO ME?
MY EYES! DEAR HEAVEN, MY EYES--!!
THEY'RE UNCOVERED! THEY'RE...

THEY'RE... NORMAL... POWERLESS!
HOWEVER HARD I TRY, I CAN'T PROJECT MY OPTIC BLASTS!

DID YOU HEAR ME, WORLD? I CAN'T... HUH?
"THAT'S WHEN I DISCOVERED I WAS BACK ON THE STRATO-JET--

"--AND I WASN'T IN CONTROL!
AUTOMATIC PILOT IS JAMMED! CAN'T TURN THIS CRATE BACK TO THE ISLAND--!

"I SPENT THE NEXT FIVE MINUTES POUNDING FUTILELY ON THE CONTROL PANEL, THEN RESIGNED MYSELF TO THE SITUATION AND SAT BACK IN MY SEAT.
"I WASN'T HAPPY BY THE TIME I REACHED WESTCHESTER--

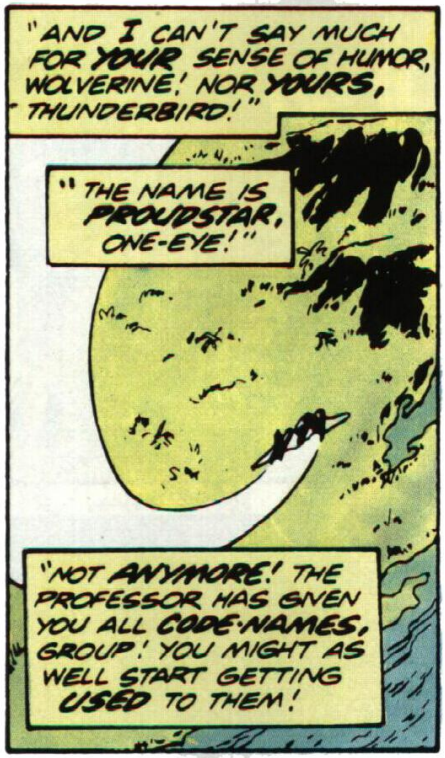
"--NOT HAPPY AT ALL!
SLAMM!
CYCLOPS!? WHAT--? WH-WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
PROFESSOR --I'M BACK!
"THE PROFESSOR WAS NO HAPPIER THAN I AFTER I TOLD HIM...

DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THE OTHER X-MEN ARE STILL ON THAT ISLAND--
--AND YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THEM?
I KNOW NOTHING, PROFESSOR--EXCEPT THAT SOMETHING ON KRAKOA CURED MY EYES AND DEPOSITED ME BACK IN THAT...

HUH? WHAT IS IT, PROFESSOR? WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
YOUR EYES, SCOTT-- THEY'RE GLOWING AGAIN--?
QUICKLY, SCOTT-- GRAB SOME PROTECTIVE LENSES!
YOUR OPTIC POWERS HAVE RETURNED!
NO-- NOT AGAIN! DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!
"BUT I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO EVEN ASK!
"THE OPTIC ENERGIES THAT HAD CURSED ME SINCE MY EARLY TEENS WERE BACK AGAIN--
"--WITH A VENGEANCE!
"AND THIS TIME THEY WERE SO STRONG, EVEN I COULD NOT CONTROL THEM!"
CROOM!
SKAKK!
THE PROFESSOR MODIFIED ONE OF MY OLD VISORS TO CONTAIN MY INCREASED POWER--
--THEN LEFT ME HERE TO RETRAIN MYSELF WHILE HE WENT IN SEARCH OF YOU!
AND HE FOUND US! SO NOW WHAT?
SO NOW WE GO BACK TO KRAKOA TO FIND THE ORIGINAL X-MEN--
--AND THE MUTANT THAT DEFEATED US!
INCORRECT, CYCLOPS! NOW YOU GO BACK TO KRAKOA-- NOT I!
I WILL HAVE NO PART IN THIS FOOL'S ERRAND!
WHAT--?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, SUNFIRE-- WE OFFER YOU A CHANCE TO HELP YOUR FELLOW MUTANTS AND...
I DO NOT EVEN LIKE MY FELLOW MUTANTS, CYCLOPS!
I CERTAINLY WILL NOT RISK MY LIFE TO HELP THEM!
I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU, SUNFIRE-- BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE ARGUING!
THE REST OF US HAVE A JOB TO DO-- AND WE'RE GOING TO DO IT!
MOMENTS LATER, THE STRATO-JET STREAKS SKYWARD-- AND THERE IS ONLY ONE EMPTY SEAT ON BOARD...
IT SEEMS I HAVE HAD MY FIRST TASTE OF MUTANT CAMARADERIE-- AND I MUST SAY, CYCLOPS--
-- I DID NOT LIKE IT!
MAYBE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE, SISTER-- BUT THIS GROUP AIN'T EXACTLY A MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY!
"WE'RE ALL INVOLVED IN THIS FIASCO FOR OUR OWN REASONS, GIRLY-- AN' PATTING EACH OTHER ON THE BACK AIN'T ONE OF... HUH?
"HEY, ONE-EYE-- THERE'S SOMETHING FOLLOWIN' US!"
"I SEE IT, GERONIMO! IT'S..."
"WELL, I'LL BE JIGGERED, ONE-EYE-- THE JAP!"
ARE YOU GOING TO OPEN THE HATCH, CYCLOPS--
OR DO YOU EXPECT ME TO FLY ALL THE WAY TO KRAKOA BY MYSELF?
SO-- THE PRODIGAL MUTANT RETURNS! WHY DID YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, SUNFIRE-- AFRAID TO GO HOME ALONE?
MY REASONS ARE NOBODY'S BUSINESS BUT MY OWN, MISFIT! YOU'D DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT!

CHAPTER III
ASSAULT FORCE!
AN HOUR PASSES -- TWO HOURS -- UNTIL THE FORSAKEN ATOLL CALLED KRAKOA LOOMS FULL BEFORE THE VIEWPORTS...
SO THAT'S WHERE YOU MISLAID YOUR PARTNERS, HUH?
CAN'T SAY MUCH FOR YOUR TASTE IN VACATION SPOTS, SUMMERS!


"AND I CAN'T SAY MUCH FOR YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR, WOLVERINE! NOR YOURS, THUNDERBIRD!"
"THE NAME IS PROUDSTAR, ONE-EYE!"
"NOT ANYMORE! THE PROFESSOR HAS GIVEN YOU ALL CODE-NAMES, GROUP! YOU MIGHT AS WELL START GETTING USED TO THEM!

"NOW THE ASSAULT TEAMS WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:
"STORM, YOU AND COLOSSUS WILL COME IN FROM THE NORTH!

"BANSHEE AND THE WOLVERINE WILL MOVE ACROSS FROM THE EAST!
'TIS A PLEASURE TA BE WORKIN' WITH YE, LADDY.
WHOOPEE.

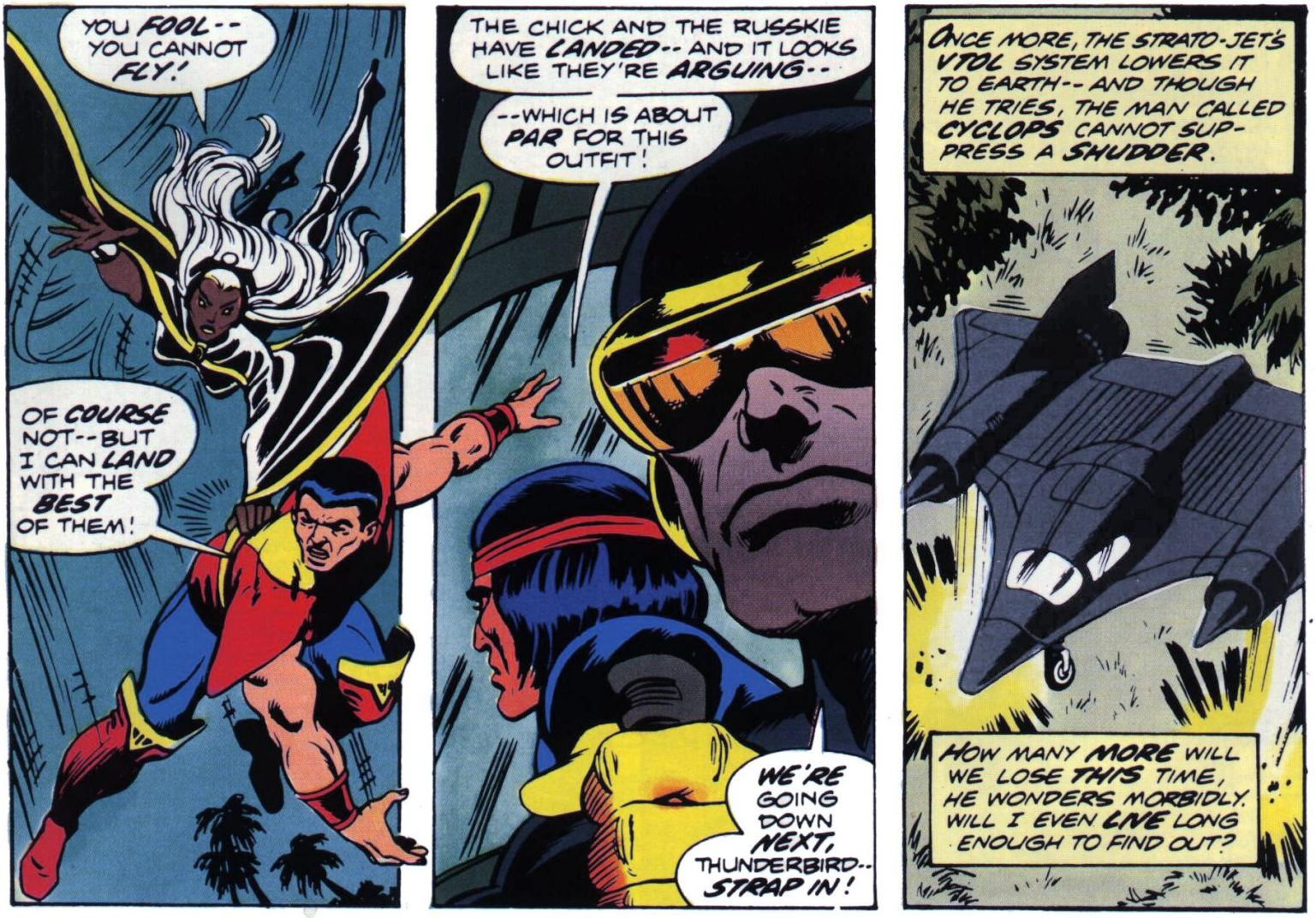
"SUNFIRE AND THE NIGHTCRAWLER WILL START SEARCHING FROM THE SOUTH!"
NO -- NOT HIM!
I DID NOT HEAR CYCLOPS GIVING YOU A CHOICE, MAN.

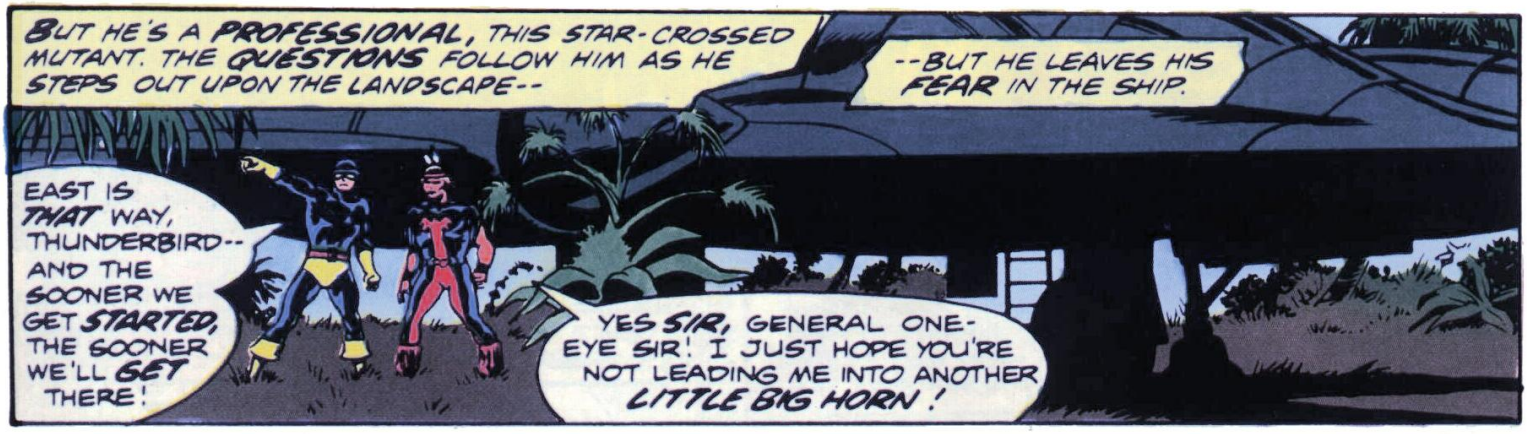
THUNDERBIRD AND I WILL HANDLE THE WEST END OF THE ISLAND!
NOW GET READY, SOUTH TEAM -- YOUR DROP IS COMING UP!
I DON'T MUCH LIKE THE TONE OF YOUR VOICE, CYCLOPS!

"WE CAN ARGUE ABOUT IT WHEN YOU GET BACK! NOW -- GO!

"EAST TEAM -- GO!"
CRIPES! DO YOU HAVE TO SCREECH LIKE THAT?

"NORTH TEAM --
THAT IS OUR SIGNAL, STORM!
COLOSSUS -- NO!


YOU FOOL-- YOU CANNOT FLY!
OF COURSE NOT--BUT I CAN LAND WITH THE BEST OF THEM!
THE CHICK AND THE RUSSKIE HAVE LANDED-- AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE ARGUING--
--WHICH IS ABOUT PAR FOR THIS OUTFIT!
WE'RE GOING DOWN NEXT, THUNDERBIRD-- STRAP IN!
ONCE MORE, THE STRATO-JET'S VTOL SYSTEM LOWERS IT TO EARTH-- AND THOUGH HE TRIES, THE MAN CALLED CYCLOPS CANNOT SUPPRESS A SHUDDER.
HOW MANY MORE WILL WE LOSE THIS TIME, HE WONDERS MORBIDLY. WILL I EVEN LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FIND OUT?


BUT HE'S A PROFESSIONAL, THIS STAR-CROSSED MUTANT. THE QUESTIONS FOLLOW HIM AS HE STEPS OUT UPON THE LANDSCAPE--
--BUT HE LEAVES HIS FEAR IN THE SHIP.
EAST IS THAT WAY, THUNDERBIRD-- AND THE SOONER WE GET STARTED, THE SOONER WE'LL GET THERE!
YES SIR, GENERAL ONE-EYE SIR! I JUST HOPE YOU'RE NOT LEADING ME INTO ANOTHER LITTLE BIG HORN!

IT'D BE JUST MY LUCK TO BE THE FIRST INDIAN TO GET MASSACRED BY...
HOLD IT! I LEFT THE MINI-CEREBRO UNIT BACK IN... HUH?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
DON'T BELIEVE WHAT?

THE STRATO-JET--!
IT'S-- GONE!

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THE GROUND DOESN'T JUST OPEN UP AND SWALLOW A JET PLANE WHOLE--!
ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!
AND STRANGE TEMPLES DON'T SUDDENLY SPRING UP OUT OF NOWHERE--

"--BUT ONE HAS!"
HUH? THAT JOINT WASN'T THERE WHEN WE LANDED!

EXACTLY! AND SINCE IT SEEMS AS GOOD A SPOT AS ANY TO START SEARCHING--
LET'S GO!

GRUMBLING IN ANNOYANCE, THE MUTANT NOW RELUCTANTLY CALLED THUNDERBIRD FOLLOWS HIS CYCLOPEAN COMPANION INTO THE VERDANT UNDERBRUSH.
JOHN PROUDSTAR HAS NEVER MUCH LIKED THE JUNGLE--

--AND APPARENTLY, THE FEELING IS MUTUAL!
THE VINES-- THEY'RE ALIVE--!!

A CONDITION WE WON'T SHARE MUCH LONGER--
--UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING-- FAST!

GOT ANY SUGGESTIONS IN PARTICULAR, ONE-EYE?
SKRAK

ZZAZZH
NOT REALLY, THUNDERBIRD!
FOR A BEGINNER, YOU'RE DOING PRETTY WELL ON YOUR OWN!

WITHIN MOMENTS, THE TWO YOUNG X-MEN HAVE LEFT THE STRANGLING CREEPER VINES FAR BEHIND THEM--
--AND IT IS NOT TERRIBLY DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHICH WAY THEY HAVE GONE.

FOURTEEN MINUTES LATER...
WELL, WE'VE MADE IT IN REASONABLE SHAPE!
I WONDER HOW THE OTHERS ARE FARING?

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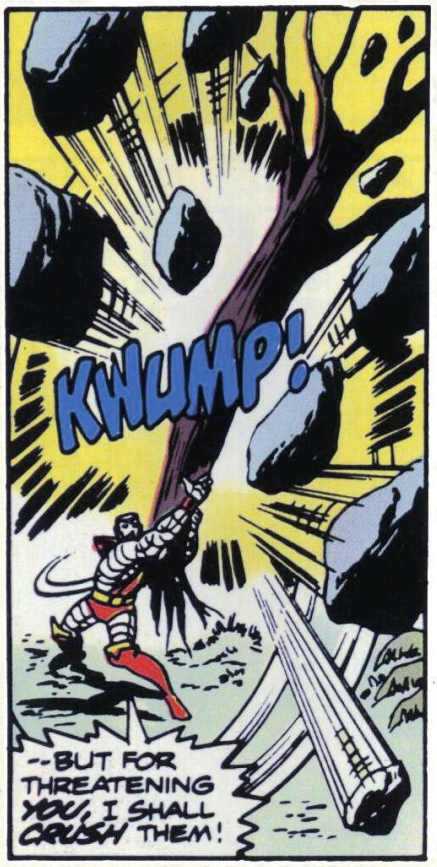
WELL, MINUTES EARLIER ON THE ISLAND'S NORTH SIDE...
OOO-- I DO NOT RECALL SEEING THAT TEMPLE BEFORE.
COME, COLOSSUS-- LET US BEGIN OUR SEARCH THERE!
RRUUMMBLE
WHATEVER YOU SAY, ORORO. YOU ARE SO UNLIKE THE GIRLS IN MY... EH? THAT SOUND...?
AN AVA-LANCHE!
QUICKLY, COLOSSUS-- PERHAPS WE CAN STILL OUTRUN IT!
IT HAS CHANGED ITS DIRECTION TO FOLLOW US!
He MóXeT ó bIT b! THIS LANDSLIDE CANNOT BE OUTRUN, ORORO!

THOSE MAD ROCKS CAN NO LONGER HURT ME, ORORO--
THEN IF WE CANNOT AVOID A CONFRONTATION, WE MUST STAND OUR GROUND-- AND DEFEND OURSELVES!


KWUMP!
--BUT FOR THREATENING YOU, I SHALL CRUSH THEM!

"I AM NO LONGER THREAT-ENED."
I THANK YOU, PETER-- BUT THERE IS NO NEED TO PROTECT ME!

AND SHORTLY...
STORM... COLOSSUS... GLAD YOU MADE IT IN ONE PIECE.
BARELY, CYCLOPS ...JUST BARELY. I ONLY HOPE THE OTHERS ARRIVE SAFELY AS WELL.

WHILE ON THE ISLAND'S SOUTH SIDE...
THESE BIRDS SEEM DETERMINED TO PREVENT US FROM REACHING THAT STRANGE TEMPLE AHEAD, SUNFIRE!
A REMARKABLE OBSERVATION, MISFIT! YOU HAVE A POSITIVE TALENT FOR STATING THE OBVIOUS!

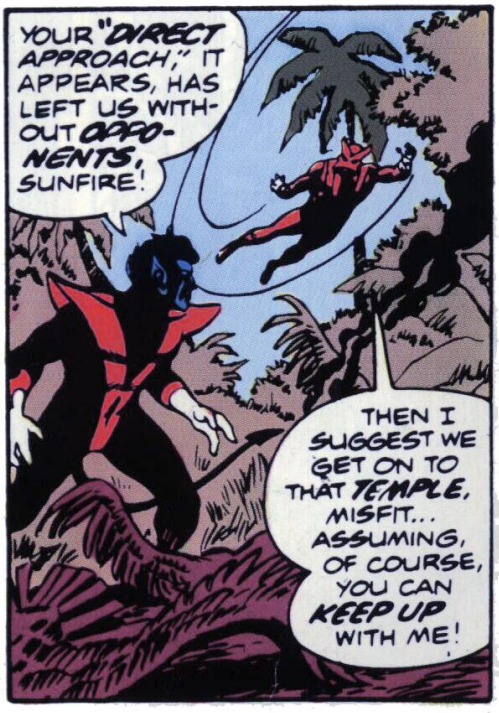
SKREEE
YOUR SARCASM IS UNCALLED FOR, SUNFIRE! I BEGIN TO THINK THE MUTANT COMMUNITY IS NO MORE HOSPITABLE THAN THE HUMAN... EH?
THAT BIRD--ABOUT TO RAKE ME WITH ITS TALONS--!

A BURST OF FLAME-- THE STENCH OF BRIMSTONE-- AND THE MUTANT CALLED NIGHTCRAWLER--

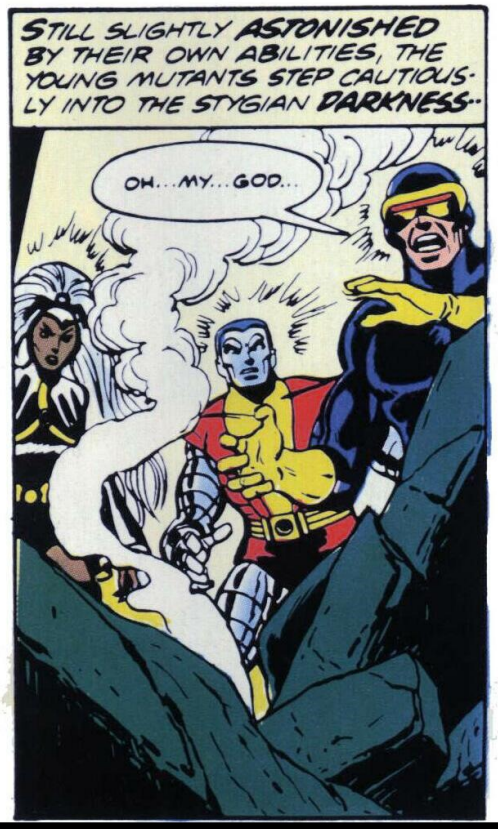
--IS SUDDENLY ELSEWHERE!
HIS LAUGH IS LITTLE MORE THAN A HIDEOUS HOWL!

YOUR MANNER SEEMS MUCH LIKE THAT OF THE BEASTS YOU SO RESEMBLE, MISFIT!
HOW APPROPRIATE!

BUT SUNFIRE HAS NO NEED OF SUCH PARLOR TRICKS AS YOURS!
I MUCH PREFER THE DIRECT APPROACH!


YOUR "DIRECT APPROACH," IT APPEARS, HAS LEFT US WITHOUT OPPONENTS, SUNFIRE!
THEN I SUGGEST WE GET ON TO THAT TEMPLE, MISFIT... ASSUMING, OF COURSE, YOU CAN KEEP UP WITH ME!

AND FINALLY...
CYCLOPS! HAVE WE KEPT YOU WAITING LONG?
NOT AT ALL! JUST GOT HERE OURSELVES!



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WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE STARING AT THEM--!
IN PITY'S NAME-- SET THEM FREE!

CRIPES! WHAT'S GOING ON? AS SOON AS WE PULLED THESE TUBES LOOSE--
--THE PLACE STARTED SHAKING ITSELF APART!
QUICKLY THEN--CARRY WHOEVER IS CLOSEST TO YOU--

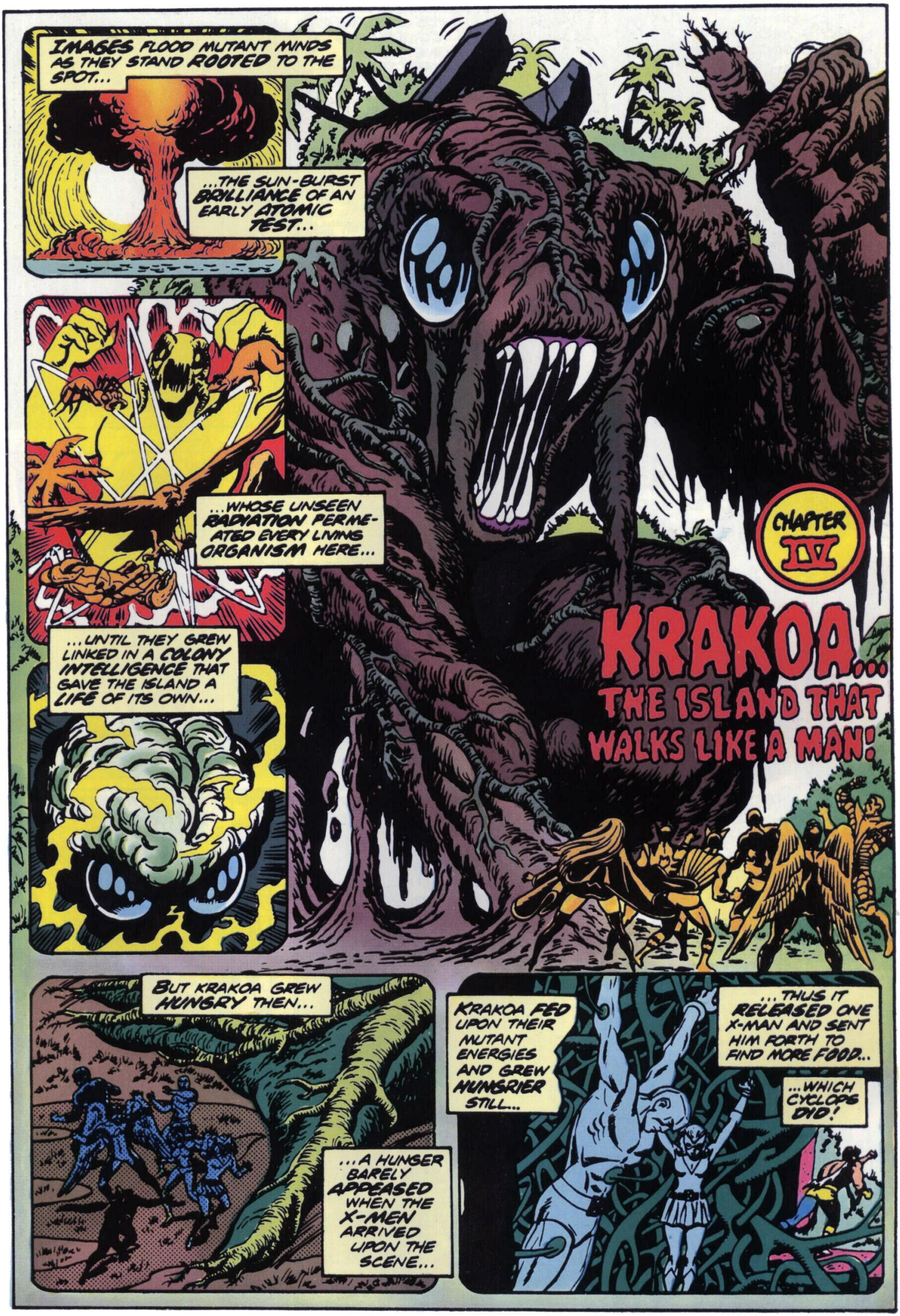
--AND LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THIS TEMPLE COMES DOWN AROUND OUR EARS!
KROOM!

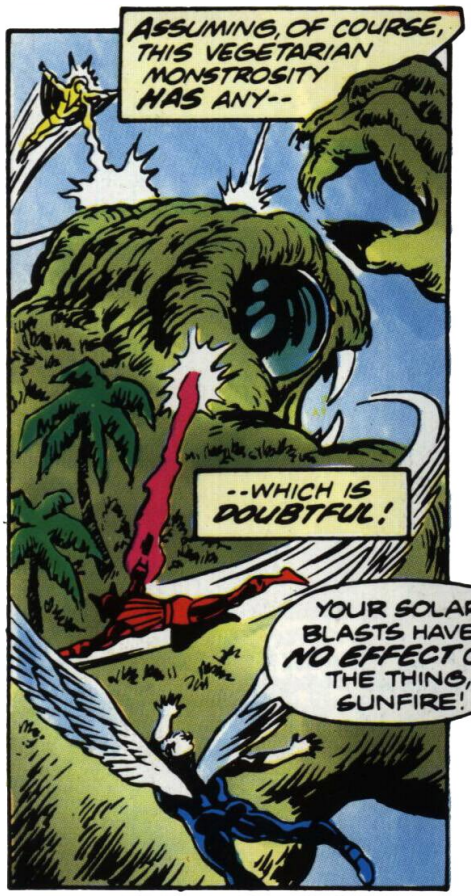
AND EVEN AS THE ARCANE TEMPLE TOPPLES INTO RUIN BEHIND THEM...
HEY-- THEY'RE COMING AROUND! MUST NOT HAVE BEEN AS BAD AS...
WHY, CYCLOPS? WHY DID YOU COME BACK FOR US?
HUH?

"--BUT THE MUTANT IS THE ISLAND ITSELF!"
KKRRAWRR

YOU FOOL-- DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?
IT WANTED YOU TO COME BACK--AND BRING OTHERS WITH YOU! IT WAS ALL A TRAP-- AND NOW IT'S--
--TOO LATE!

THE GROUND-- REARING UP AROUND THE FALLEN TEMPLE--!?!
OF COURSE! HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED YET?
WE CAME TO THIS ISLAND TO LOOK FOR A MUTANT...


IMAGES FLOOD MUTANT MINDS AS THEY STAND ROOTED TO THE SPOT...
...THE SUN-BURST BRILLIANCE OF AN EARLY ATOMIC TEST...
...WHOSE UNSEEN RADIATION PERMEATED EVERY LIVING ORGANISM HERE...
...UNTIL THEY GREW LINKED IN A COLONY INTELLIGENCE THAT GAVE THE ISLAND A LIFE OF ITS OWN...
CHAPTER IV
KRAKOA... THE ISLAND THAT WALKS LIKE A MAN!
BUT KRAKOA GREW HUNGRY THEN...
...A HUNGER BARELY APPEASED WHEN THE X-MEN ARRIVED UPON THE SCENE...
KRAKOA FED UPON THEIR MUTANT ENERGIES AND GREW HUNGRIER STILL...
...THUS IT RELEASED ONE X-MAN AND SENT HIM FORTH TO FIND MORE FOOD...
...WHICH CYCLOPS DID!



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MERE WORDS COULD NEVER BEGIN TO DESCRIBE THE SHEER UNBRIDLED SAVAGERY OF THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWS--

--SO WE WON'T EVEN ATTEMPT IT HERE!

SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT THE CONFLICT GOES WILDLY ON UNTIL...

SCOTT--STOP! YOU'RE GOING ABOUT THIS ALL WRONG!

HUH? PRO-FESSOR--!?!

I'VE BEEN MENTALLY MONITORING YOUR BATTLE THUS FAR--

--STUDYING THIS LIVING ISLAND--

--AND I BELIEVE I'VE DISCOVERED IT'S SOLE WEAK POINT!

NOW THIS IS MY PLAN...

IN AN INSTANT, PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S MENTAL COMMANDS ARE PROJECTED HALFWAY AROUND A WORLD--

--THEN HE CLOSES HIS EYES--STEELS HIMSELF FOR THE COMING ORDEAL--

--CONCENTRATES--

--AND THE BATTLE IS JOINED!

KKKMMMRR

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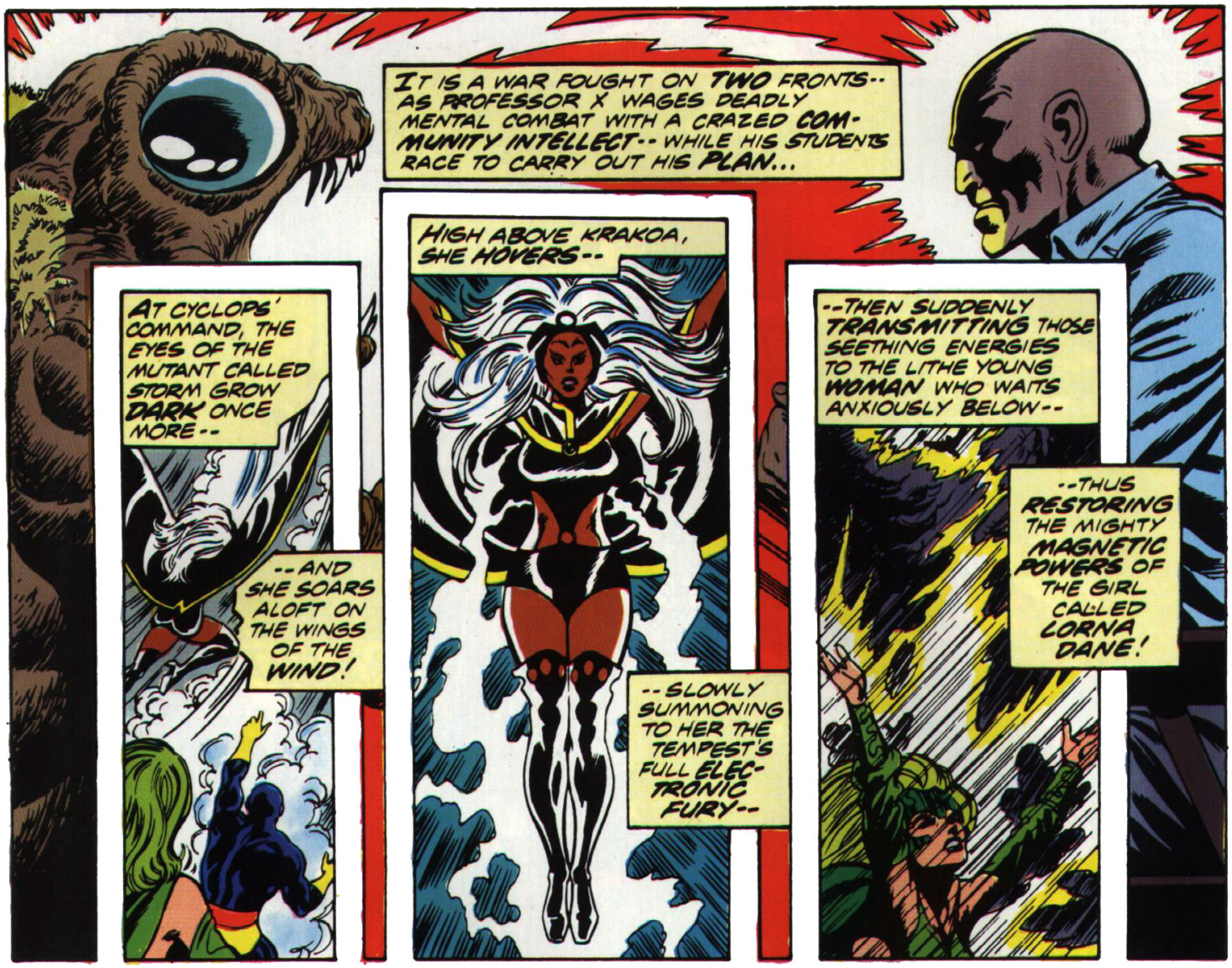
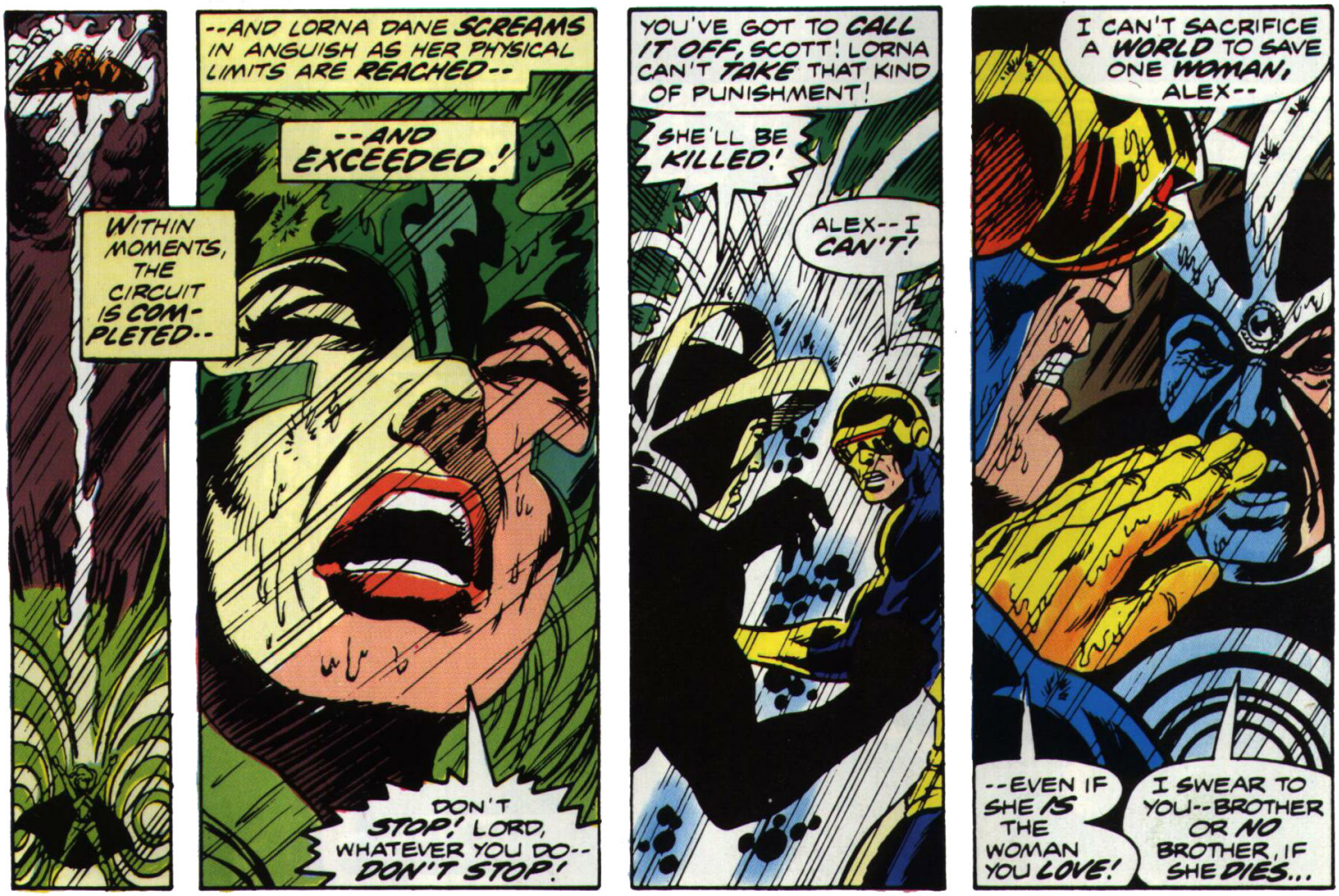
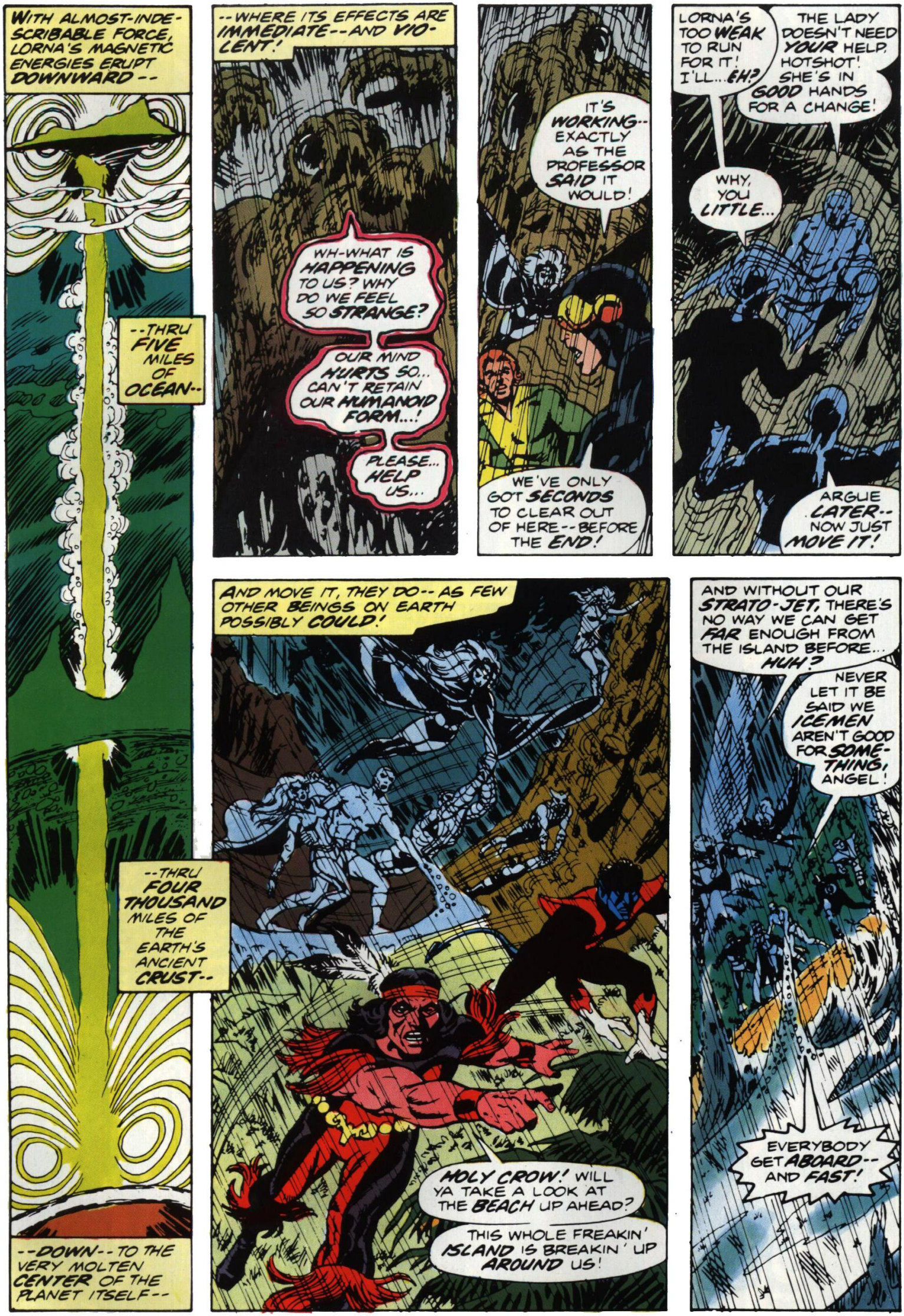
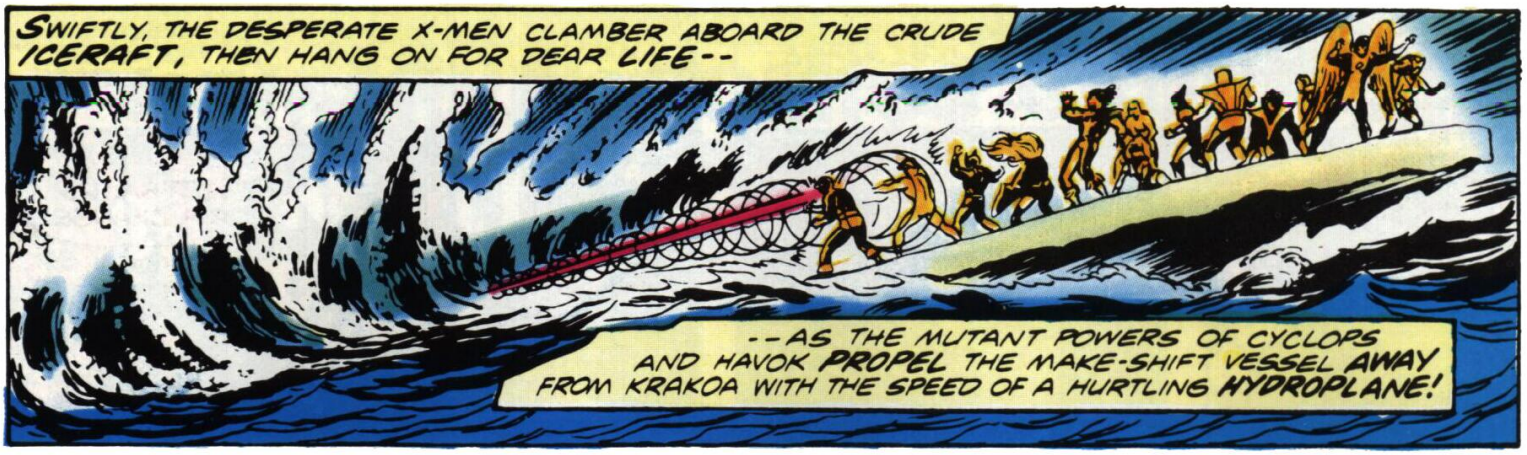

IT IS A WAR FOUGHT ON TWO FRONTS-- AS PROFESSOR X WAGES DEADLY MENTAL COMBAT WITH A CRAZED COMMUNITY INTELLECT-- WHILE HIS STUDENTS RACE TO CARRY OUT HIS PLAN...
AT CYCLOPS' COMMAND, THE EYES OF THE MUTANT CALLED STORM GROW DARK ONCE MORE--
--AND SHE SOARS ALOFT ON THE WINGS OF THE WIND!
HIGH ABOVE KRAKOA, SHE HOVERS--
--SLOWLY SUMMONING TO HER THE TEMPEST'S FULL ELECTRONIC FURY--
--THEN SUDDENLY TRANSMITTING THOSE SEETHING ENERGIES TO THE LITHE YOUNG WOMAN WHO WAITS ANXIOUSLY BELOW--
--THUS RESTORING THE MIGHTY MAGNETIC POWERS OF THE GIRL CALLED LORNA DANE!

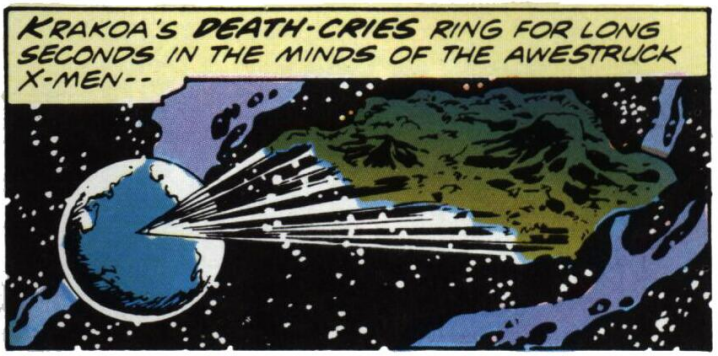

WITHIN MOMENTS, THE CIRCUIT IS COMPLETED--
--AND LORNA DANE SCREAMS IN ANGUISH AS HER PHYSICAL LIMITS ARE REACHED--
--AND EXCEEDED!
DON'T STOP! LORD, WHATEVER YOU DO-- DON'T STOP!
YOU'VE GOT TO CALL IT OFF, SCOTT! LORNA CAN'T TAKE THAT KIND OF PUNISHMENT!
SHE'LL BE KILLED!
ALEX--I CAN'T!
I CAN'T SACRIFICE A WORLD TO SAVE ONE WOMAN, ALEX--
--EVEN IF SHE IS THE WOMAN YOU LOVE!
I SWEAR TO YOU--BROTHER OR NO BROTHER, IF SHE DIES...

THE REMAINDER OF HAVOK'S ANGRY OUTBURST IS SLAIN BY THE CRACKLING ROAR OF THE THUNDROUS DOWN-POUR--
--EVEN AS THE TORRENTIAL WATERS LEND LIFE TO SOMETHING ELSE!
WRAAR
KR
BEGORRAH! THE BLINKIN' BEASTIE'S GETTIN' STRONGER NOW!
BUT HOW--?
CYCLOPS, THE ISLAND'S MIND HAS SUDDENLY GROWN MORE FORCEFUL!
I--I CAN'T MAINTAIN MY ASSAULT ANY LONGER--!
FORGIVE ME, SCOTT...
...BUT I FEAR... YOU'RE... ON... YOUR... OWN...
FOOLS! YOU BROUGHT RAIN FROM THE SKY TO DESTROY US--
--BUT IT SERVES ONLY TO REPLENISH US--
--AND GIVE US STRENGTH TO DESTROY YOU!
BUT AS BEFORE, THE X-MEN ARGUE THAT POINT--
--QUITE STRONGLY!
WE CAN'T HOLD THAT THING OFF FOREVER, SCOTT! IF THE PROFESSOR'S PLAN DOESN'T WORK...
WE'LL KNOW IF IT WORKS SOON ENOUGH, JEAN! GET EVERYBODY BACK!
WE'RE READY TO BEGIN!
WITH THAT, A SOLEMN SCOTT SUMMERS TURNS--TO FIND THAT THE FIGURE OF LORNA DANE HAS BECOME LOST WITHIN A CORUSCATING INCANDESCENT TOWER OF SHEER MAGNETIC FORCE.
HIS MUTANT EYES NARROW-- AND A SINGLE WORD FORMS UPON HIS LIPS:
NOW!


WITH ALMOST-INDESCRIBABLE FORCE, LORNA'S MAGNETIC ENERGIES ERUPT DOWNWARD--
--THRU FIVE MILES OF OCEAN--
--THRU FOUR THOUSAND MILES OF THE EARTH'S ANCIENT CRUST--
--DOWN--TO THE VERY MOLTEN CENTER OF THE PLANET ITSELF--
--WHERE ITS EFFECTS ARE IMMEDIATE--AND VIOLENT!
WH-WHAT IS HAPPENING TO US? WHY DO WE FEEL SO STRANGE?
OUR MIND HURTS SO... CAN'T RETAIN OUR HUMANOID FORM....!
PLEASE... HELP US...
IT'S WORKING--EXACTLY AS THE PROFESSOR SAID IT WOULD!
WE'VE ONLY GOT SECONDS TO CLEAR OUT OF HERE--BEFORE THE END!
LORNA'S TOO WEAK TO RUN FOR IT! I'LL...EH?
THE LADY DOESN'T NEED YOUR HELP, HOTSHOT! SHE'S IN GOOD HANDS FOR A CHANGE!
WHY, YOU LITTLE...
ARGUE LATER--NOW JUST MOVE IT!
AND MOVE IT, THEY DO--AS FEW OTHER BEINGS ON EARTH POSSIBLY COULD!
HOLY CROW! WILL YA TAKE A LOOK AT THE BEACH UP AHEAD?
THIS WHOLE FREAKIN' ISLAND IS BREAKIN' UP AROUND US!
AND WITHOUT OUR STRATO-JET, THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN GET FAR ENOUGH FROM THE ISLAND BEFORE... HUH?
NEVER LET IT BE SAID WE ICEMEN AREN'T GOOD FOR SOMETHING, ANGEL!
EVERYBODY GET ABOARD--AND FAST!

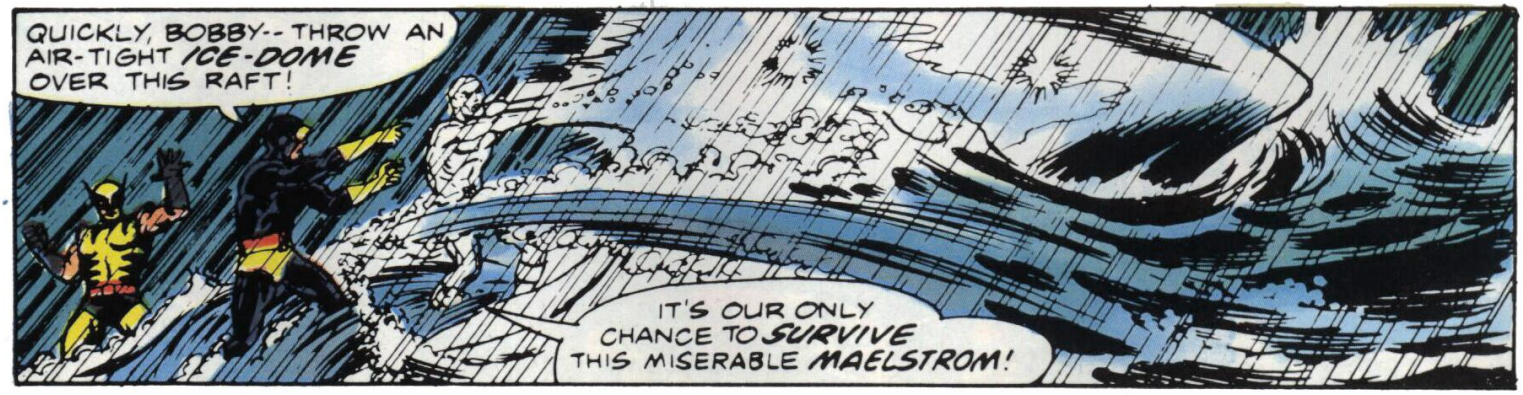

SWIFTLY, THE DESPERATE X-MEN CLAMBER ABOARD THE CRUDE ICERAFT, THEN HANG ON FOR DEAR LIFE--
--AS THE MUTANT POWERS OF CYCLOPS AND HAVOK PROPEL THE MAKE-SHIFT VESSEL AWAY FROM KRAKOA WITH THE SPEED OF A HURTLING HYDROPLANE!

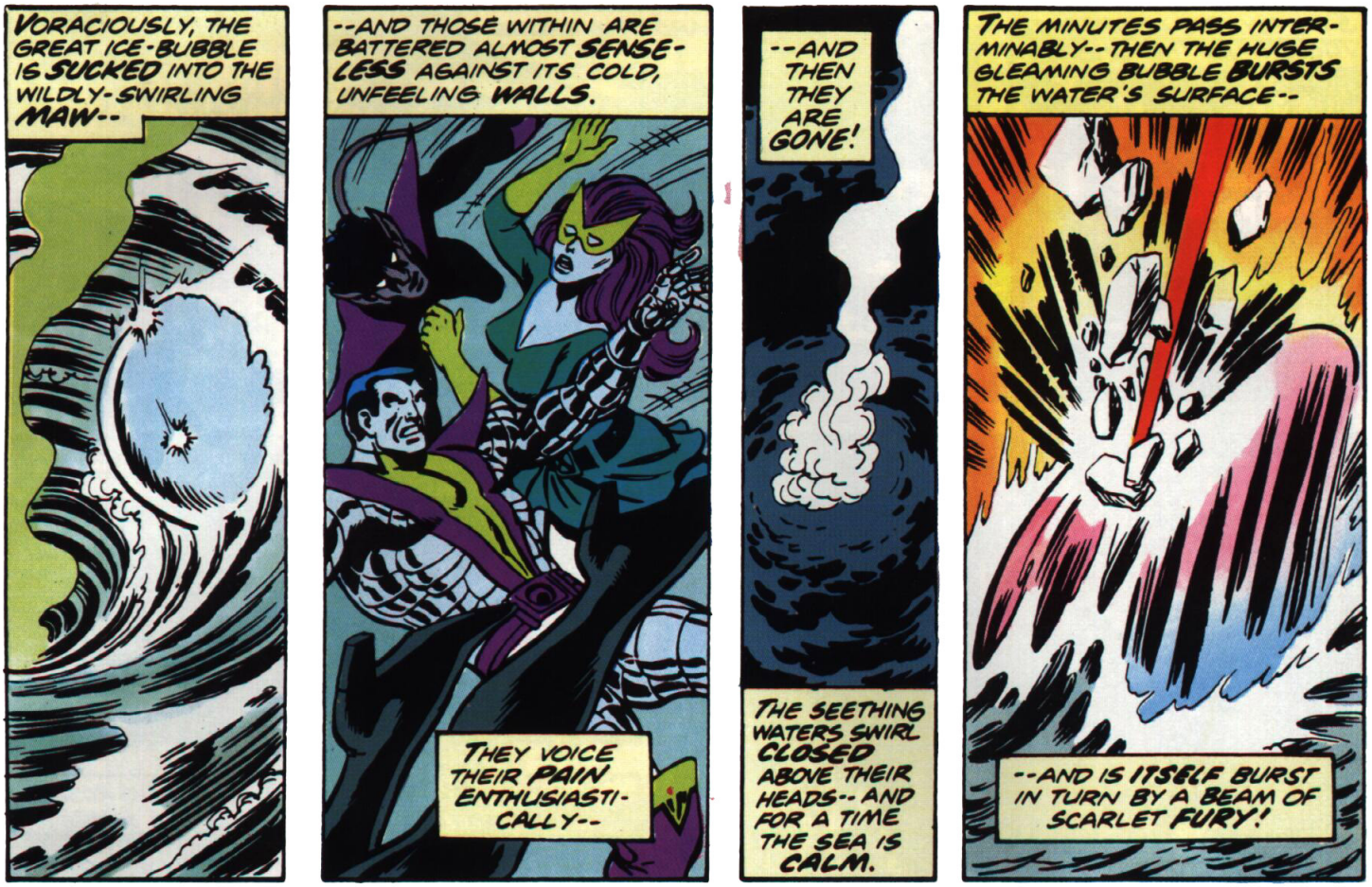
BEHIND THEM, THE WORLD CONVULSES IN CARNAGE-- AS THE RESULTS OF LORNA DANE'S ENERGY-BOLT BECOME APPARENT AT LAST--
--FOR HER ELECTRICALLY-CHARGED BURST HAS CUT ACROSS THE PLANET'S PRIMARY LINES OF MAGNETIC FORCE-- SEVERING THEM--
--AND FOR AN INSTANT ABOUT THE ISLAND KRAKOA-- GRAVITY CEASES TO EXIST!
THEN THE EARTH-FORCES COME VIOLENTLY TOGETHER--AND THE EFFECT IS THE SAME AS SQUEEZING WET SOAP THRU A FIST!

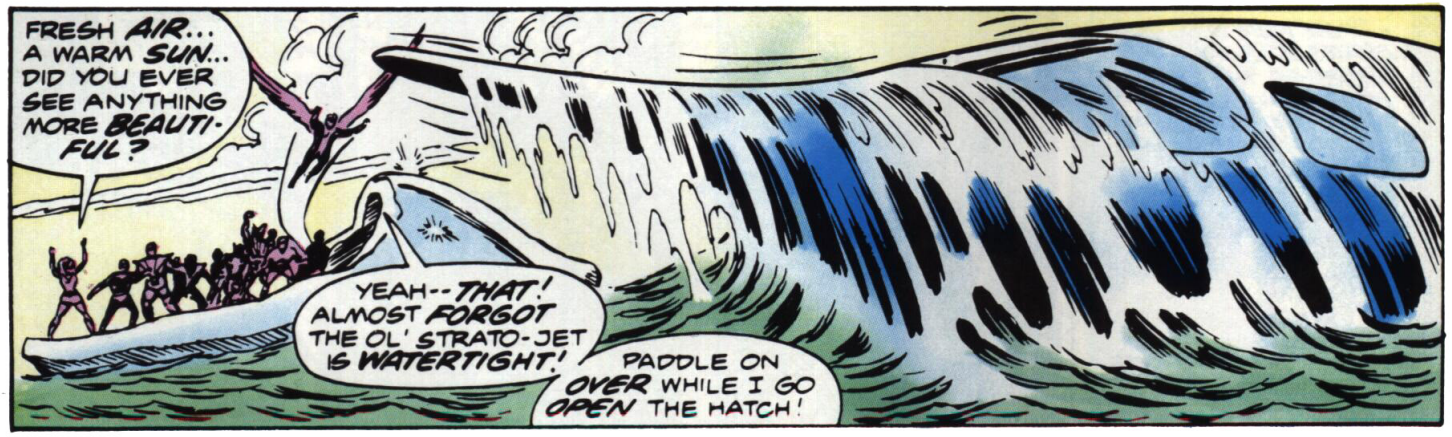

KRAKOA'S DEATH-CRIES RING FOR LONG SECONDS IN THE MINDS OF THE AWESTRUCK X-MEN--

--THEN A NEW, MORE FRIGHTENING REALITY INTRUDES UPON THE SCENE...
BRACE YOURSELVES, EVERYONE-- THERE'S TROUBLE AHEAD!

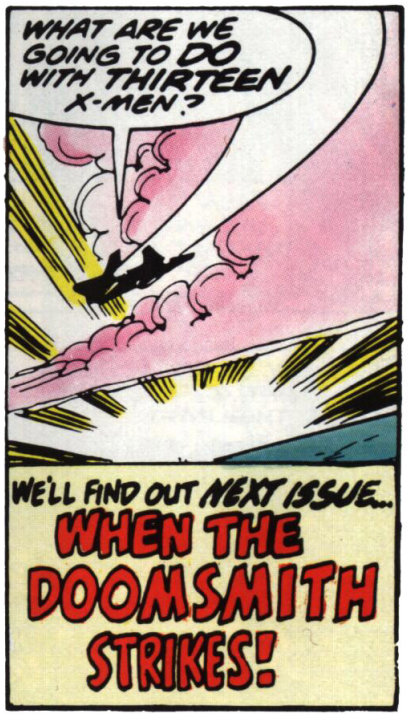
"THE OCEAN IS RUSHING TO FILL IN THE SPACE KRAKOA JUST VACATED..
"--AND WE'RE CAUGHT IN THE WHIRLPOOL!"


QUICKLY, BOBBY-- THROW AN AIR-TIGHT ICE-DOME OVER THIS RAFT!
IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE TO SURVIVE THIS MISERABLE MAELSTROM!


VORACIOUSLY, THE GREAT ICE-BUBBLE IS SUCKED INTO THE WILDLY-SWIRLING MAW--
--AND THOSE WITHIN ARE BATTERED ALMOST SENSELESS AGAINST ITS COLD, UNFEELING WALLS.
THEY VOICE THEIR PAIN ENTHUSIASTICALLY--
--AND THEN THEY ARE GONE!
THE SEETHING WATERS SWIRL CLOSED ABOVE THEIR HEADS-- AND FOR A TIME THE SEA IS CALM.
THE MINUTES PASS INTERMINABLY-- THEN THE HUGE GLEAMING BUBBLE BURSTS THE WATER'S SURFACE--
--AND IS ITSELF BURST IN TURN BY A BEAM OF SCARLET FURY!


FRESH AIR... A WARM SUN... DID YOU EVER SEE ANYTHING MORE BEAUTIFUL?
YEAH-- THAT! ALMOST FORGOT THE OL' STRATO-JET IS WATERTIGHT!
PADDLE ON OVER WHILE I GO OPEN THE HATCH!

SHORTLY, AS THE STRATO-JET STREAKS SKYWARD...
SORRY WE DON'T HAVE SEATS FOR ALL OF YOU-- BUT THIS PLANE WASN'T DESIGNED TO CARRY SO MANY MUTANTS!
WHICH BRINGS US TO OUR NEXT LITTLE PROBLEM...


WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THIRTEEN X-MEN?
WE'LL FIND OUT NEXT ISSUE...
WHEN THE DOOMSMITH STRIKES!